**WORLD** / A19

**Prince Charles** complains phone being tapped; British police probe tabloid editor

**LIFESTYLE** / C1

**Cooking school right** where freshest ingredients are on sale

**NEWS** / A16

**GMA names career** diplomat Willy Gaa ambassador to US

**ACROSS** / A13

**Chavit Singson reportedly** behind the takeover of Poro Point port

## '3rd party' steals thunder from 'Juan' and 'Inday'

By Norman Bordadora

A RARE THING HAS HAPPENED, WITH PAGASA reporting yesterday the presence of two weather disturbances—typhoon "Juan" and tropical storm "Inday"—north of Luzon and well within the Philippine area of responsibility (PAR).

It was the first time since 1990

3RD PARTY/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
rsday, August 10, 2006 ★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 243 P18 website: www.inq7.net

## No Viagra for Indian, 88, in land of Kama Sutra

NEW DELHI—AN 88-YEAR-old Indian farmer, who has never heard of Viagra, recently became the father of a baby boy.

In fact, Virmaram Jat has sex daily and wants more kids, The Times of India reported.

NO VIAGRA/ A6

SINGLE LANG ANG PAHINGA NI LOLO!

# NPA attacks Mayon troops

## Grenade explosions injure 5 soldiers

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
*Inquirer Southern Luzon*

THUNDEROUS EXPLOSIONS GREETED ARMY SOLDIERS in Daraga, Albay, on Tuesday while they were packing relief goods for thousands of residents who evacuated from the slopes of the rumbling Mayon Volcano.

The explosions at about 8:20 p.m. came not from the volcano but from rocket-propelled grenades fired by some 20 New People's Army guerrillas.

The NPA observed a de facto ceasefire in the region earlier this year when the Bulusan Volcano in the neighboring province of Sorsogon expelled ash clouds that triggered a brief evacuation of nearby villages.

No ceasefire is in place around Mayon.

The attack appears to be part of the stepped-up campaign of the NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, against the military in the Bicol region.

The attack on the 901st Infantry Brigade headquarters in Barangay Villahermosa wounded five soldiers, according to Maj. Gen. Alexander Yano, chief of the Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) based in Camp Nakar in Lucena City.

"The rebel group came from the Sorsogon side and fired an M-203 4mm grenade launcher," said battalion commander Brig. Gen. Arsenio Arugay.

Arugay said that at the time of the attack, most of the soldiers were out of the

NPA ATTACKS/ A9

## 3 out of 10 Filipinos want to leave RP

By Kate V. Pedroso
*Inquirer Research*

THREE OUT OF EVERY 10 FILIPINO adults, or around 14 million, will migrate today if it was possible for them, as levels of public hopefulness amid uncertain times have dropped to their lowest at 49 percent since July 2002, according to the latest nationwide survey of Pulse Asia Inc.

While 32 percent of the respondents said they were unsure of migrating, they did not rule out the

3 OUT OF 10/ A8

REUTERS

**PIETA:** Like a rag doll, the body of a toddler is removed by a Lebanese rescue worker from the wreckage of a building in a residential neighborhood in Beirut.

## Israel orders expansion of ground war in Lebanon

JERUSALEM—ISRAEL'S SECURITY CABINET YESTERDAY ORDERED AN EXPANDED ground offensive in Lebanon aimed at striking a harder blow against Hezbollah and curbing its cross-border rocket attacks, the prime minister's office said.

The decision by Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and top ministers to send troops deeper into Lebanon, possibly as far as the Litani River, up to 20 km north of the border, would bring a major escalation despite UN diplomacy to end the war.

It came after Israel shut down road traffic in south Lebanon, declaring a no-drive zone below the Litani River and threatening to blast any moving vehicle as a guerrilla target.

Only pedestrians ventured into the streets of Tyre and country roads and highways were deserted throughout the region on Tuesday as Israel moved to inflict damage to Hezbollah as much as possible before a ceasefire takes hold.

A vote on a UN resolution to end the war, triggered by Hezbollah's seizure of two soldiers in a July 12 cross-border raid, may not take place before Thursday because of wrangling.

On the 28th day of the war, ground fighting intensified across the south Lebanon front, and at least 19 Lebanese civilians died in air strikes. Rescuers pulled 28 additional corpses from the wreckage of attacks the day before, raising the death toll to 77 Lebanese killed Monday, the highest since the war began.

Israel reported five soldiers killed Tuesday but no civilians.

At least one Palestinian also was killed when Lebanon's largest refugee camp was struck by Israeli gunboat shells early Wednesday, Lebanese and Palestinian of-

ISRAEL/ A8

## *'Magic 7' and how bombing 'saves' 4 OFWs*

By Nikko Dizon

A BOMB EXPLOSION PROVED TO BE A sort of a life saver for four young Filipino women fleeing Lebanon.

Shirley Yap, Joahnna Rose Asis, Gina Aminal and a certain Maribel were held at the Lebanese-Syrian frontier on Saturday after their employers accused them of reneging on their contracts of employing and committing theft—charges they denied.

"The Lebanese soldiers at the border immigration told us they have to send us back to Beirut," Asis, 20, told the INQUIRER.

The four women were questioned individually and after an hour were told that they would be sent back to Tripoli where they would be detained for two days and then to Beirut, said Yap, 25.

Asis recounted in Filipino that she

MAGIC 7/ A8

**LIFE IN AN EVACUATION CENTER:** Families are now housed in 15 evacuation centers, mostly public schools with about 20 people per classroom. A total of 39,278 people from villages surrounding the picturesque Mayon Volcano have been safely evacuated from the danger zone after a two-day operation by the military and local officials.

EDWIN BACASMAS

## '8th impeach rap is sufficient in form'

By Philip C. Tubeza
and Michael Lim Ubac

WITH A UNANIMOUS VOTE, THE MEMBERS of the House committee on justice ruled last night that the eighth impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo was sufficient in form.

The complaint, the only one remaining among the eight impeachment complaints, will face the next and last test on sufficiency of substance during the resumption of the impeachment hearing on Tuesday.

It was filed by the Black and White Movement and subsequently endorsed by Tarlac Rep. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III and other Liberal Party lawmakers on July 27.

"There's a motion declaring the complaint as sufficient in form. Any objection? The chair hears none, so the motion is granted," declared Rep. Simeon Datumanong, the committee chair, as he banged the gavel at 6:13 p.m.

The vote ended five hours of tumultuous debate on procedures.

The committee also firmly shut the door on calls that 37 minority and majority lawmakers linked to the P728-million fertilizer fund scam be inhibited from taking part in the impeachment hearings.

8TH IMPEACH/ A5

## Money talks: GMA execs attend Senate budget hearing

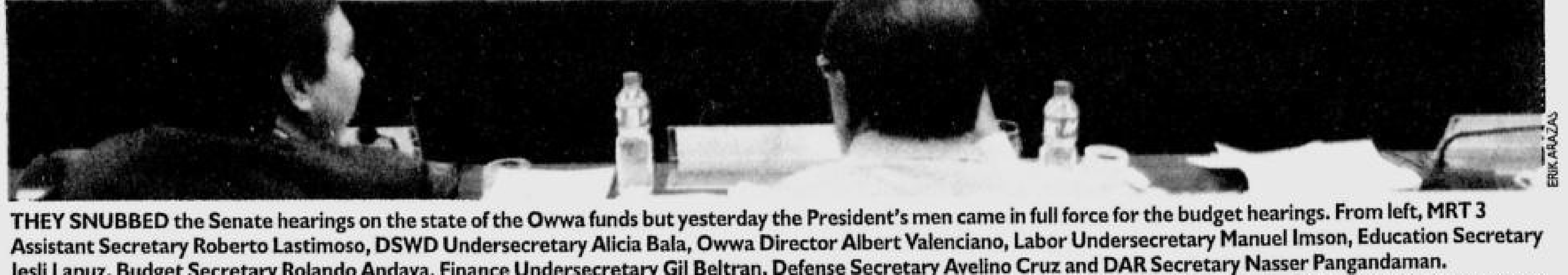
By Juliet Labog-Javellana

AFTER SNUBBING PREVIOUS SENATE hearings, members of President Macapagal-Arroyo's Cabinet attended in full force yesterday's hearing of the Senate finance committee on Malacañang's request for a P46.9-billion supplemental budget for 2006 and a P500-million standby fund for the evacuation of Filipinos from Lebanon.

The irony was not lost on senators, who are gearing up for a new battle with Malacañang over the non-appearance of officials in three Senate hearings over the past two weeks on account of Executive Order No. 464.

The order prevents officials of the ex-

MONEY/ A6


ERIK ARAZAS

**THEY SNUBBED** the Senate hearings on the state of the Owwa funds but yesterday the President's men came in full force for the budget hearings. From left, MRT 3 Assistant Secretary Roberto Lastimoso, DSWD Undersecretary Alicia Bala, Owwa Director Albert Valenciano, Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson, Education Secretary Jesli Lapuz, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya, Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz and DAR Secretary Nasser Pangandaman.

**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Western section of Central Luzon, Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent rains over the western sections of Southern Luzon and Visayas. The rest of Luzon will have cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/08/09/06 SOURCE PAGASA

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

## Second FRONTPAGE

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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Cloudy with Rains | Iloilo/Bacolod | Rains |
| Baguio | Partly Cloudy | Roxas | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tuguegarao | Partly Cloudy | Cebu | Cloudy with Rains |
| Laoag | Partly Cloudy | Tacloban | Cloudy with Rains |
| Clark Zone | Cloudy with Rains | Gen. Santos | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tagaytay | Rains | Zamboanga | Cloudy with Rains |
| Legazpi | Cloudy with Rains | Cagayan de Oro | Cloudy with Rains |
| Calapan | Rains | Davao | Cloudy with Rains |

# Fate of nursing hopefuls hangs

**By Alcuin Papa**

PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY COMMISSION (PRC) Chair Leonor Tripon-Rosero denied yesterday there was any cover-up in the investigation into alleged leakage in the last nursing board exams.

In an interview, Rosero also said the PRC will meet with nursing deans on Aug. 15 to decide if the Aug. 22 oath-taking for nurses who passed the last board exam will push through, or if there will be a retake of the exam after allegations of a leakage surfaced.

Rosero also confirmed that they did not attend the Senate inquiry into the leakage the other day based on Executive Order No. 464. However, she said they are ready to explain to the Senate their reasons for snubbing the inquiry.

On allegations hurled by lawyer Cheryl Daytec-Yangot, a counsel for a nursing student who lodged a complaint on the leakage that the PRC is covering up the incident, Rosero said "that's her opinion."

"It's good that the BON was heard. If we were there, we would have explained what we have done on the incident and how we computed the grades to nullify the effect of any leakage. But we are not hiding anything," Rosero said.

On the Aug. 15 meeting, Rosero said she and other PRC officials will explain to the nursing deans the formula they adopted in the computation of the last exam.

Once the meeting is concluded, Rosero said the PRC would decide on whether to push through with the oath-taking or order a retake of the exam based on the comments from the deans.

"We will meet with around 400 deans and we will show and explain to them our system. Hopefully, they will understand our position," Rosero said.

But even now, Rosero said she was not inclined to order a retake of the last nursing board exams. "If you passed the exam, would you like to retake it again? It is unfair to those who did not benefit from the leakage."

She stressed that the PRC had conducted its own inquiry into the matter. The inquiry led to the filing of administrative cases against two members of the Board of Nursing, the body which formulates the questions for the board exam. The two were identified as Anesia Dionisio and Virginia Madeja, who contributed questions to the exams.

Around 42,000 nursing graduates took the last board exam in 11 testing centers around the country. Around 17,000 nursing students passed the exam for a passing rate of 42 percent.

Earlier, Eufemia Octaviano of the Board of Nursing said the Aug. 22 oath-taking for the board passers has been "held in abeyance."

Allegations of a leakage surfaced in Baguio City a few weeks ago after nursing students there complained of a leakage allegedly from the R. A. Gapuz Review Center branch in the city.

The review center has denied any involvement in the leakage. However, Ray Gapuz, founder and chairman of the company, admitted that he received a faxed copy of an 18-page handwritten manuscript a day before the exams. But he claimed did not know the manuscript, which he ordered distributed to his students, was a "leakage."

GAY
PHIL. ARMY
PHIL. ARMY

HOLDING HANDS. Magdalo soldier 1LT Albert Gay is escorted out of the Quezon City court after the hearing.

RAFFY LERMA

## *4 Magdalo officers want seized evidence quashed*

FOUR OF THE SIX JUNIOR OFFICERS belonging to the rebel Magdalo group who were arrested in July during a raid of their Quezon City hideout questioned the legality of the search warrant used in the raid leading to their arrest.

As a result, their arraignment yesterday on charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives was deferred, while Judge Rosanna Fe Romero-Maglaya of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 88 considers their motion.

In two motions separately filed by their lawyers, the soldiers asked the court to invalidate the search and seizure of their rented house in Filinvest II subdivision, Batasan Hills on July 7, and render inadmissible the evidence collected there.

The officers who filed the motion were 1st Lt. Sonny Sarmiento, 2nd Lt. Angelbert Gay, 2nd Lt. Aldrin Baldonado, and Navy Lt. Kiram Sadava, as well as lawyer Jose Christopher Belmonte, who also stands accused of the charges.

The rest of the accused were 1st Lt. Nathaniel Rabonza, whose lawyer failed to make it to the hearing, 1st Lt. Patricio Bumidang, who was also absent, and another civilian respondent Michael Yangzon.

The eight were arrested during the raid on their safe house,which yielded high-powered weapons and the supposed blueprint of the Batasang Pambansa complex.

Belmonte and Yangzon were arraigned earlier than the others in late July and pleaded innocent to the charges.

In their motion to quash, and omnibus motion, the four officers and Belmonte argued that Manila judge Antonio Eugenio, who had issued the search warrant, had no jurisdiction over the case.

Lawyer Roberto Rafael Pulido, who represents Gay, Baldonado, Sadava and Belmonte, said this was "highly irregular" since the Filinvest house was in Quezon City, where there were courts that could have handled the case.

The military had reasoned that they might have problems with Quezon City courts because of the "significant connections" that the accused have at City Hall, based on "intelligence reports." (Belmonte is a nephew of Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte.) But Pulido said the applicants had failed to prove this.

Lawyer Theodore Te, who represents Sarmiento, said the police and military elements who had applied for the search warrant had failed to establish probable cause that there was need for one.

He also asked the court to suppress the objects seized from the house, saying they could not be admitted as evidence.

Maglaya set the hearing on the motion for Aug. 16, and gave the prosecution 10 days to submit their comment. The arraignment of the rest of the accused was also tentatively set on that date.

# Militants skeptical as PNP holds conference on killings

**By Luige A. del Puerto**

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE will hold today its multisectoral conference on the unabated political killings, but it remained unclear whether all stakeholders would see their way clear to joining a discussion of ways to stem the rampage.

At press time yesterday, the prevailing view among militant groups ranged from skepticism to outright dismissal of the idea of holding talks with Task Force Usig, the PNP unit formed to look into the killing of journalists and leftist activists.

But PNP spokesperson Sr. Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr. expressed hope that militant groups would "see through the actions of the police."

"There are policemen themselves involved in the killings and they are arrested by the PNP. If [anything], that is a message of our sincerity in solving these killings," he said.

### Antagonism

Renato Reyes, secretary general of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, said his group would have to consult with the victims' families regarding whatever benefits might be earned from its presence at the conference.

"People are skeptical of Task Force Usig, and that will weigh heavily [on our decision to attend or not]," he said.

Whatever relations there were between the PNP and Bayan-allied groups appear to have soured earlier on.

Days before the conference, Deputy Director General Avelino Razon Jr., chief of Task Force Usig and the PNP deputy chief for administration, said certain party-list groups, the National Democratic Front, and the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, were "deceiving the people" by making it appear that they were distinct groups when they were not.

Razon also accused members of these party-list groups of involvement in both the parliamentary and armed struggles.

### List of invitees

On the list of invitees were members of militant groups as well as of the military, judiciary, media, business, clergy and anticrime organizations.

They included Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño, Leo Dacera of the Witness Protection Program, Human Rights Commissioner Quintin Cueto III, and Brig. Gen. Jaime Buenaflor of the Armed Forces' Civil Service Relations Service.

Also invited were Teodoro Casiño of Bayan Muna, Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis, Liza Maza of Gabriela and Etta Rosales of Akbayan—all party-list representatives—and Marie Hilao-Enriquez of the human rights group Karapatan.

Casiño, Maza and Mariano are among the six activist lawmakers that the PNP had charged with conspiring with rightist groups to overthrow the Arroyo administration—a claim that the legislators have denied.

The others invited were businessman Francis Chua and Guillermo Luz, Inday Varona of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, anticrime advocate Teresita Ang-See, and clergymen Romeo Intengan Jr. of Ateneo de Manila University, Anton Pascual of Caritas Manila, Arthur Corpuz of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, and Ignacio Soliba of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines.

Pagdilao said the conference would be the first in a series of discussions that the PNP intended to hold.

He said the aim was basic: "We expect a common ground for everybody to agree that the killings should be stopped and that in order to stop them, the perpetrators must be identified, arrested and [taken] to court to answer for and be [held] responsible for their actions.

### JUSMAG EVICTION

# Ex-AFP chief denies harassing soldiers

**By Dona Pazzibugan**

FORMER ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF staff Benjamin Defensor denied he harassed Army officials and soldiers who carried out the eviction of former military and police officials from the Joint United States Military Advisory Group (Jusmag) compound in Fort Bonifacio.

"I don't know who invented that story," he said in a phone call to the INQUIRER yesterday.

Defensor also denied he "moved heaven and earth" to ask for an extension to stay in his Jusmag quarters.

But then he added: "Since there was a pending case (before the Supreme Court) I didn't move my things."

The Army on Monday identified Defensor as among the three ex-generals who continued to hold out in the disputed housing area while the families of 78 other retired, resigned or deceased officials have vacated their quarters by Saturday.

The 15-year old dispute over the 40-hectare Jusmag property is pending before the Supreme Court.

The government, through the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA), contested the claim made by the Southside Homeowners Association Inc. (SHAI), composed of wives of military officials occupying Jusmag in 1991.

Defensor turned over the keys to his quarters before noon Monday after a series of phone calls to Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr.

Former Air Force major general now interior undersecretary Melchor Rosales and ex-Army brigadier general Raymundo Jarque meanwhile continue to stay in their quarters.

"I was no longer living there. I have not been living there for a long time now. So how can I be evicted? I went back for a ceremonial turnover ... to show the soldiers that it can be done properly," Defensor said.

According to a member of the eviction team, Defensor was "foul-mouthed" as he harassed soldiers sent to carry out the eviction order.

He denied he harassed Army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino.

"I don't know of any instance of verbal abuse," said Defensor, a former Air Force chief who was military chief for only 69 days until he retired in November 2002.

# Solve slays or lose jobs, cops warned

**By Luige A. del Puerto**

IN ANOTHER MOVE AIMED AT countering criticisms the police have not been doing enough, Philippine National Police Director General Oscar Calderon has told his field commanders their jobs would be on the line if they did not solve the extrajudicial killings, among other crimes, in their areas of jurisdiction.

Calderon said he would be summoning the regional police directors to brief him on the progress of their investigations into the killings mainly of militant activists and members of the media.

Asked about the consequence of the officers' failure to solve the killings, he said: "Their positions will be at stake. I will be judging them on their performance, so if they cannot deliver ... then they have no business being there."

"There are a lot of junior officers volunteering for positions," he added.

But Calderon clarified the officers' jobs would not depend on their ability to solve the killings alone, but would form part of their evaluation.

In some cases, solving a case might be really difficult, especially if it happens in a remote area, he said.

More than 200 activists and media persons have been killed since President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed office in 2001, according to figures compiled by the INQUIRER. The human rights group Karapatan placed the number at more than 700, and the police at more than 100.

Police claimed to have solved two cases of media killings days after Ms Arroyo set a 10-week deadline last week to solve at least 10 cases.

Calderon said the police could not afford to be complacent.

# Marines capture 5 Abus; Janjalani also hunted

MARINES CAPTURED FIVE SUSpected Muslim militants yesterday following a gunbattle on Jolo island, where the military has been hunting down Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani and Indonesian terror suspects, officials said.

It was not clear if Janjalani or members of the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah organization—all targets of ongoing US-backed offensives—were among a group of Abu Sayyaf men who clashed with members of the 3rd Philippine Marine brigade near mountainous Patikul town, whose thick jungles are a known lair of the rebels.

Marine forces stumbled on a group of Abu Sayyaf guerrillas at dawn, setting off a 30-minute gunbattle, military spokesman Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro said. There was no immediate report of casualties.

The Marines recovered an assault rifle and a pistol left by the rebels and later separately captured five men near the vicinity, Bacarro said without elaborating.

Government forces launched a manhunt for Janjalani and several Jemaah Islamiyah members on Jolo early this month after local residents claimed to have seen them, according to a military officer who spoke on condition of anonymity because he's not authorized to talk to reporters.

Among the Indonesians who took refuge on Jolo with Janjalani was Umar Patek, one of the suspected masterminds of the 2002 nightclub bombings in Indonesia's resort island of Bali that killed 202 people, the officer said.

Other military officials have said another 2002 Bali bombing suspect who goes by one name, Dulmatin, may also be hiding with the Abu Sayyaf in Jolo.

The United States has offered huge rewards for the capture of Dulmatin and Patek who Philippine police intelligence officials believe fled from Indonesia after the 2002 Bali attacks.

Last week, Philippine military officials reported that Ismin Sahiron, son of one-armed Abu Sayyaf commander Radulan Sahiron, died after being wounded in a clash with troops.

The father and son, who also had an arm amputated, are among 14 Filipino militants on a US Defense Department list offering rewards for information leading to their capture.

US troops, stationed on Jolo as part of counterterrorism assistance focusing on humanitarian work, were providing intelligence and communications support to the Philippine military offensives, US and Philippine officials said. *AP*

# Japayuki departures down to a trickle; cost to RP is $1B

**By Jerome Aning**

RECRUITERS OF OVERSEAS PERforming artists (OPAs) for the Japanese entertainment industry yesterday called on the Philippine and Japanese governments to renew their dialogue to ease up the immigration restrictions that has drastically affected the deployment of OPAs to Japan.

Lorenzo Langomez, president of the Philippine Association of Recruiters Deploying Artists (Parada) told reporters that the number of Filipino entertainers sent to Japan plummeted from between 5,000 and 6,000 monthly before 2004 to only about 200 a month this year.

"We've deployed only about 5,000 OPAs since January; we'd be lucky if we'd be able to send 10,000," Langomez said. "We're now sending just a mere 10 percent of the number we used to send before."

The Parada chief recalled that OPA deployment once peaked up to 88,000 before 2004, making OPAs the country's biggest labor export.

New immigration rules imposed by the Japan in March last year required prospective OPAs to have a two-year work experience from an entertainment venue outside Japan, or a two-year education from an entertainment institution.

The new regulations were imposed after Japan, along with the Philippines, was placed on the United States' watchlist for rampant human trafficking.

The plunge in OPA deployment cost the country about $1 billion in direct and indirect remittances, not to mention displacing thousands of employees from recruitment agencies, training centers and entertainment-related firms indirectly benefiting from the OPA industry, Langomez said.

The Japanese entertainment industry also suffered from the restrictions.

About 60 percent for entertainment centers in Japan have shut down because of the shortage of OPAs.

Langomez also recounted meeting in Manila many Japanese who used to work as waiters or busboys in Japan and were now seeking employment in the local entertainment centers.

"Usually, it's the Filipino wives of Japanese citizens who now work in the remaining entertainment clubs," he said, adding that despite the shortage of entertainers, OPAs' wages only rose slightly since many clubs have already shut down.

Langomez also cast doubt whether Tokyo's immigration restrictions for OPAs could really stop human trafficking.

He noted that the Japanese government recently eased up the tourist visa application procedures in a bid to improve Japan's inbound tourism.

Citing statistics from the Philippine immigration authorities, he said that since last year, between 800 and 1,000 Filipinos have been going to Japan as tourists.

"With the difficult times we're currently experiencing, would you believe that we have 1,000 tourists going to Japan every month?" he asked.

Langomez said many of the "tourists" end up as undocumented and overstaying aliens, the women mostly landing in clubs where they are subjected to maltreatment and even used in prostitution.

The liberalized tourist visa application was being used by illegal recruiters in the Philippines to send undocumented workers to the Japan, the Parada chief added.

"The sad thing is that many Filipinos opt to take shortcuts and seek illegal recruiters if only to get to Japan quickly," he said.

For his part, Alfredo Palmiery, chair of the Federated Associations of Manpower Exporters, said the OPA industry was pursuing a two-pronged approach to lighten up, if not reverse, the effect of the restrictions.

First is by trying to convince the implementors of the regulations to accept OPAs with years of previous experience in Japan as entertainers.

"What's happening now is that if, for example, you worked as entertainer in Japan for 10 years, you won't be accepted back anymore because you must have worked for at least two years outside Japan," Palmiery said.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration was currently compiling a list of OPAs who had stints in Japan to bolster its negotiations with the Japanese immigration authority, he said.

The second approach is political. Palmiery said OPA recruiters, with the help of POEA and the Department of Foreign Affairs, have been identifying and seeking support of Japanese politicians who could help Manila lobby for the relaxation of the new rules.

# 5 US solons coming for talks

FIVE MEMBERS OF the US House of Representatives, led by a World War II veteran who saw action in the Philippines, will be in Manila for bilateral talks in a three-day visit beginning tomorrow, the US Embassy announced yesterday.

The lawmakers are all members of the House International Relations Committee, led by its chair, Rep. Henry Hyde (R-IL), with members Melvin Watt (D-NC), Dana Rohrabacher (R-Ca), Jeff Flake (R-Az), and Eni F.H. Faleomavaega (American Samoa).

They will meet President Macapagal-Arroyo to discuss economic, political, and security issues and to reaffirm US-Philippines bilateral ties, the embassy said.

They will also join US and Filipino veterans at a ceremony on Friday afternoon at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, where Hyde will lay a wreath to honor his "fellow veterans," it added.

Hyde fought in World War II as a US naval commander and participated in the Allied landings at Lingayen Gulf in the Philippines in January 1945.

According to the mission, Hyde's chairmanship of the International relations committee saw him play a vital role in Washington's war on terrorism. He has been involved in crucial debates about how the country must respond to the terrorist attacks perpetrated on the US on Sept. 11, 2001.

"Through his leadership, (the committee) has brought attention to the fact that America does not do a good enough job telling its story abroad," the embassy said.

# Computers to minimize, but not eliminate cheating, says Palace

THE COMPUTERIZATION OF NEXT YEAR'S elections will lead to a "cleaner and faster" polling process but Malacañang admits there is no assurance there will be no cheating.

"I think it will be cleaner and faster but as to whether there will be no cheating, having been in politics myself, I can't say absolutely there will be no cheating," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita in a briefing.

"Cheating is done in many ways, but I'm sure that it will be minimized and it will facilitate our elections. The integrity of the election process will be recognized."

Ermita said cleaning up and speeding the elections were the reasons why Malacañang was intent on the automation of the 2007 elections. That's why it is aggressively pushing for the use of the automated counting machines (ACMs) of Mega Pacific that have been idled in the Commission on Elections after the Supreme Court voided the deal, he said.

"We also wished that these things (Mega Pacific computers) could be used because this is one of the wishes of the President. But we have to bow down to what is legal and if this is allowed by the Supreme Court," said Ermita.

Malacañang has endorsed a petition filed by President Arroyo's election lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, to use the Mega Pacific computers because it was too late for the government to hold a new bidding and choose a contractor in time for the May polls.

Macalintal said that ACMs could ensure that at least 70 percent of next year's elections would be automated after the Department of Science and Technology declared Mega Pacific's units as fully accurate. He said using the ACMs would not preclude the SC from determining the criminal liability of the individuals involved in the case.

Ermita said he was aware that the computers might not be allowed by the SC to be utilized because it was part of the evidence in the case being pursued by the Ombudsman against Comelec and private officials that were behind the P1.25 billion contract for the ACMs that were supposed to be used in the 2004 elections.

The failure to automate the elections continues to haunt the President who has yet to shake off allegations that she cheated in the 2004 polls.

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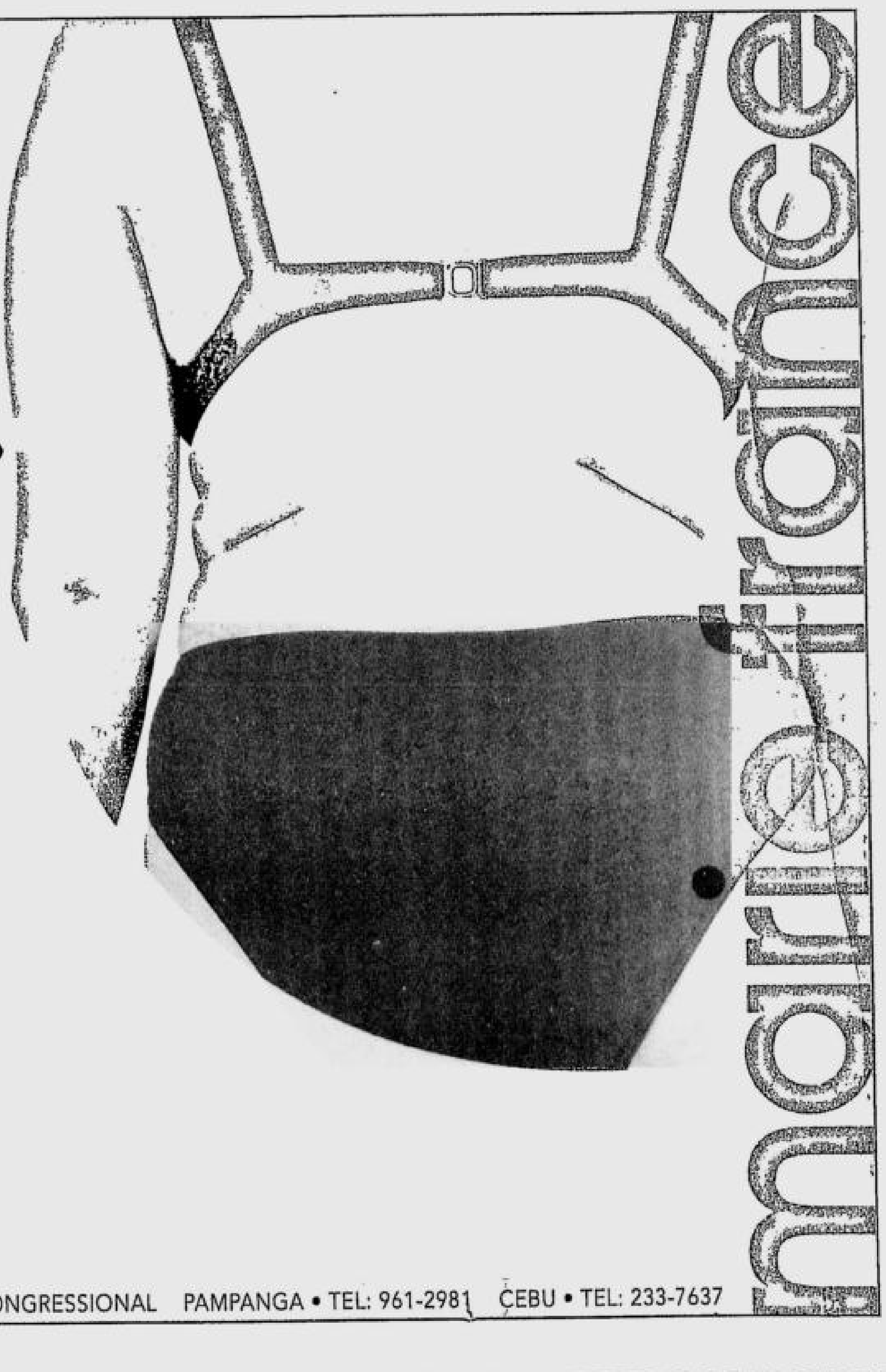
Get rid of your flabby arms & ugly bulging back.

Bras and baby tees are such an unforgiving pair when you have loose, flabby arms and bulging back fats. Shape up and trim down all those excess flabs at Marie France! Turn those sags into slimmer, slender arms and get rid of all unsightly bulges. End your frustrations over skimpy outfits and be confident to wear anything you want soon!

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FREE Weight Loss Starter Program worth P10,000 when you enroll between August 7-12, 2006 only!

Per DTI-NCR Permit # 2628, Series of 2006

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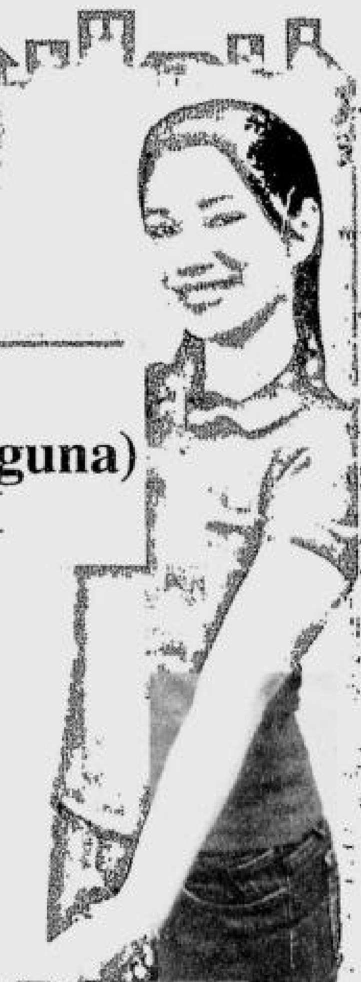
marie france

# BUENA MANO *Auction*

**2006 AUCTION TOUR** **SOUTH LUZON**

**PROVINCIAL CONTACT NOS.: LIPA** (Batangas) - (043) 757-1001 • **SAN PABLO** (Laguna) - (049) 561-3609



as low as **9.5%** interest

as long as **12 years** payment term

**Max's Restaurant San Pablo**
**Maharlika Highway, San Pablo City (Laguna)**
**August 27, 2006 – Sunday, 1:00 PM**

LOW downpayment

## LAGUNA

LL-1 - Lot with Improvement
LA 257 sqm FA 126.92 sqm
Bungalow residential building
Wild Rice St., Bermuda Subd., Banlic, Cabuyao
**Min. Bid Price: P 955,836**

LL-3 - Lot with Improvement
LA 360 sqm FA 192 sqm
Bungalow residential bdlg
Doña Eusebia Subd., Del Remedio, San Pablo City
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,300,000**

LL-4 - Lot with improvement
LA 706 sqm FA 327.48 sqm
One-storey residential building (5 BR/2TB)
New City Subd., San Roque, San Pablo City
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,000,000**

LL-5 - Lot with Improvement
LA 503 sqm FA 126 sqm
Bungalow residential building (3BR/2TB)
New City Subd. II, Brgy. San Roque
San Pablo City
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,257,500**

LL-7 - Lot with improvement
LA 633 sqm
Unfinished bungalow
Anacleta St., Casa Real, Pakil
**Min. Bid Price: P 208,000**

LL-8 - Lot with improvement
LA 1,311 sqm FA 150 sqm
One-storey residential building
Lot no. 3 Estiva Compound A., Mabini Extension, San Pablo City
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,500,000**

LL-9 - Lot with Improvement
LA 2,062 sqm FA 460 sqm
Residential building (7BR/ 5TB)
Doña Perfecta & Don Placido Sts., Vesco Subd., Brgy. 111-F, San Pablo City
**Min. Bid Price: P 4,720,125**

LL-12 - Lot with Improvement
LA 315 sqm FA 160.15 sqm
Bungalow residential building (3 BR/ 2TB)
Immaculate Concepcion Compound
San Pablo City
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,800,000**

LL-13- Lot with Improvement
LA 10,792 sqm FA 101 sqm
Office/bodega
Brgy. San Jose, Sta. Cruz
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,500,000**

LL-14 - Lot with Improvement
LA 181 sqm FA 128.6 sqm
Bungalow residential building
San Antonio Subd., Linga, Pila
**Min. Bid Price: P 400,000**

LV-1 - Vacant lot
LA 431 sqm
Interior P. Guevarra, Poblacion, Sta. Cruz
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,000,000**

LV-2 - Vacant lot
LA 428 sqm
Lot-199-G Interior P. Guevarra St., Sta. Cruz
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,000,000**

LV-4 - Vacant lot
LA 1,311 sqm
Lot no. 2 Estiva Compound A, Mabini Extension, San Pablo City
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,000,000**

LV-6 - Vacant lot
LA 1,311 sqm
Lot no. 7 Estiva Compound, Mabini Extension, San Pablo City
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,000,000**

LV-7 - Vacant lot
LA 173 sqm
Lakecity Subd., San Gregorio, San Pablo City
**Min. Bid Price: P 350,000**

LV-10 - Vacant lot
LA 7,551 sqm
Brgy. Dambo, Pangil
**Min. Bid Price: P 906,120**

LV-12 - Vacant lot
LA 131 sqm
Lot 18 Block 4 Villa Adelina III Phase I
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
**Min. Bid Price: P 128,000**

LV-13 - Vacant lot
LA 134 sqm
Lot 20 Block 4 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
**Min. Bid Price: P 128,800**

LV-14 - Vacant lot
LA 134 sqm
Lot 19 Block 4 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
**Min. Bid Price: P 128,800**

LV-15 - Vacant lot
LA 134 sqm
Lot 21 Block 4 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
**Min. Bid Price: P 128,800**

LV-16 - Vacant lot
LA 186 sqm
Lot 22 Block 4 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
**Min. Bid Price: P 179,200**

LV-17 - Vacant lot
LA 273 sqm
Lot 23 Block 4 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
**Min. Bid Price: P 328,000**

LV-18 - Vacant lot
LA 144 sqm
Lot 3 Block 5 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
**Min. Bid Price: P 163,500**

LV-19 - Vacant lot
LA 147 sqm
Lot 5 Block 5 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
**Min. Bid Price: P 181,913**

LV-20 - Vacant lot
LA 120 sqm
Lot 4 Block 8 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
**Min. Bid Price: P 108,000**

LV-21 - Vacant lot
LA 120 sqm
Lot 6 Block 8 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
**Min. Bid Price: P 108,000**

LV-23 - Vacant lot
LA 227 sqm
Lot 21 Block 8 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
**Min. Bid Price: P 255,375**

LV-24 - Vacant lot
LA 675.99 sqm
Lot 22 Block 8 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
**Min. Bid Price: P 540,792**

LV-25 - Vacant lot
LA 185.61 sqm
Lot 23 Block 8 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
**Min. Bid Price: P 183,600**

LV-26 - Vacant lot
LA 176.34 sqm
Lot 24 Block 8 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
**Min. Bid Price: P 210,600**

LV-27 - Vacant lot
LA 159.64 sqm
Lot 25 Block 8 Villa Adelina III Phase II
Brgy. Bulilan Sur, Pila
**Min. Bid Price: P 241,200**

LV-28 - Vacant lot
LA 180 sqm
L9 B2, Jamaica Hills Subd., Bambang
Los Baños
**Min. Bid Price: P 540,000**

LV-29 - Vacant lot
LA 180 sqm
Main Road, Jamaica Hills Subd., Bambang, Los Baños
**Min. Bid Price: P 532,800**

LV-30 - Vacant lot
LA 390 sqm
Lot 6 Block 2 Springdale Subd., Tadlac
Los Baños
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,248,000**

LV-116 - Vacant lot
LA 132.50 sqm
Lot 13 Blk 2, Sta. Cecilia Village
Parian, Calamba
**Min. Bid Price: P 318,000**

LV-117 - Vacant lot
LA 132.50 sqm
Lot 14 Blk 2, Sta. Cecilia Village
Parian, Calamba
**Min. Bid Price: P 318,000**

LV-118 - Vacant lot
LA 132.50 sqm
Lot 15 Blk 2, Sta. Cecilia Village
Parian, Calamba
**Min. Bid Price: P 318,000**

LV-119 - Vacant lot
LA 132.50 sqm
Lot 16 Blk 2, Sta. Cecilia Village
Parian, Calamba
**Min. Bid Price: P 318,000**

LV-120 - Vacant lot
LA 132.50 sqm
Lot 17 Blk 2, Sta. Cecilia Village
Parian, Calamba
**Min. Bid Price: P 318,000**

LV-121 - Vacant lot
LA 132.50 sqm
Lot 18 Blk 2, Sta. Cecilia Village
Parian, Calamba
**Min. Bid Price: P 318,000**

LV-122 - Vacant lot
LA 132.50 sqm
Lot 19 Blk 2, Sta. Cecilia Village
Parian, Calamba
**Min. Bid Price: P 318,000**

LV-123 - Vacant lot
LA 132.50 sqm
Lot 20 Blk 2, Sta. Cecilia Village
Parian, Calamba
**Min. Bid Price: P 318,000**

LV-124 - Vacant lot
LA 132.50 sqm
Lot 21 Blk 2, Sta. Cecilia Village
Parian, Calamba
**Min. Bid Price: P 318,000**

LV-125 - Vacant lot
LA 132.50 sqm
Lot 22 Blk 2, Sta. Cecilia Village
Parian, Calamba
**Min. Bid Price: P 318,000**

LV-126 – Vacant lot
LA 160 sqm
Lot 23 Blk 2, Sta. Cecilia Village
Parian, Calamba
**Min. Bid Price: P 410,000**

LV-127 - Vacant lot
LA 160 sqm
Lot 24 Blk 2, Sta. Cecilia Village
Parian, Calamba
**Min. Bid Price: P 410,000**

LV-128 - Vacant lot
LA 127 sqm
49 Balagtas St., Sta. Clara Sur, Pila
**Min. Bid Price: P 254,000**

LV-129 - Vacant lot
LA 774 sqm
Along Provincial Highway, Brgy. San Antonio, Pila
**Min. Bid Price: P 800,000**

## BATANGAS

BL-4 - Lot with Improvement
LA 4,000 sqm FA 268 sqm
Bungalow type residential bldg. (4 BR & 3 TB)
Brgy. Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City
**Min. Bid Price: P 5,085,200**

BL-5 - Lot with Improvement (2 adjacent lots)
LA 735 sqm FA 227 sqm
Residential building (1BR/1TB)
Interior Kap. Simeon Luz St., Lipa City
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,806,809**

BL-6 - Lot with Improvement
LA 1,440 sqm FA 872 sqm
One-storey school building
Miracle Heights Subd., Antipolo del Norte, Lipa City
**Min. Bid Price: P 8,900,000**

BL-7 - Lot with Improvement
LA 442.5 FA 246.5 sqm
Split level residential building (7BR/ 3TB)
San Sebastian Subd., Lipa City
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,100,000**

BL-8 - Lot with Improvement
LA 546 sqm FA 144 sqm
Bungalow residential building (3BR/ 2TB)
Sta. Clara cor. St. Therese Sts., Mabini Homes, Mataas na Lupa, Lipa City
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,100,000**

BL-10 - Lot with Improvement
LA 194.20 sqm FA 266 sqm
2-storey/ residential bldg and 1-storey bldg annex (7BR/3TB)
204 P. Torres St., Lipa City
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,350,000**

BL-11 - Lot with Improvement
LA 725 sqm FA 210 sqm
Office and car display building
National Road, Maraouy, Lipa City
**Min. Bid Price: P 5,400,000**

BL-13 - Lot with Improvement
LA 2,343 sqm (total contiguous lots)
With one-storey residential building
Doña Aurora/ Adelfa Sts., City Park Subdivision, Lipa City
**Min. Bid Price: P 7,750,000**

BL-15 - Lot with Improvement
LA 324 sqm FA 308 sqm
Factory building
Gloria Compound Subd., Tanauan
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,485,000**

BL-18 - Lot with Improvement
LA 403 sqm FA 163.4 sqm
3 storey residential building
Lot 1 Blk. 58 Lodgepool St., Phase 1 Brgy. San Gregorio, Laurel
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,281,000**

BL-19 - Lot with improvement
LA 358 sqm FA 276.4
2 storey bldg
Lot 36 Blk. 49 Dipper St., Phase 2 Brgy. San Gregorio Laurel
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,700,000**

BL-20 - Lot with improvement (5 contiguous lots)
LA 2,343 sqm FA 377
1 storey resd'l bldg
Dona Aurora/Adelfa Sts., City Park Subd., Sabang, Lipa City
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,100,000**

BL-21 - Lot with Improvement
LA 735 sqm
Ice plant/ cold storage warehouse
Poblacion 1, Sto. Tomas
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,020,000**

BL-22 - Lot with Improvement
LA 484 sqm FA 362 sqm
Warehouse Bldg
Brgy. Alangilan
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,261,000**

BV-119 - Vacant lot
LA 312 sqm
Lot 20 Blk 7 Mount View Park Subd., Cuta
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,248,000**

BV-120 - Vacant lot
LA 331 sqm
Lot 21 Blk. 7 Mount View Park Subd., Cuta
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,324,000**

BV-1 - Vacant lot
LA 6,666 sqm
Commercial lot
Brgy. Puting Bato West, Calaca
**Min. Bid Price: P 5,400,000**

BV-8 - Vacant lot
LA 67,500 sqm
Interior agricultural land
Bo. Kayrilao (Brgy. Latag), Nasugbu
**Min. Bid Price: P 250,000**

BV-9 - Vacant lot
LA 452 sqm
Commercial lot
Gualberto Avenue, Poblacion, Rosario
**Min. Bid Price: P 4,900,000**

BV-10 - Vacant lot
LA 2,009 sqm
Provincial Road, Brgy. Namuco, Rosario
**Min. Bid Price: P 2,998,000**

BV-13 - Vacant lot
LA 129 sqm
Lot 8 Block 7 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
**Min. Bid Price: P 258,000**

BV-14 - Vacant lot
LA 129 sqm
Lot 9 Block 7 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
**Min. Bid Price: P 258,000**

BV-15 - Vacant lot
LA 129 sqm
Lot 10 Block 7 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
**Min. Bid Price: P 258,000**

BV-16 - Vacant lot
LA 308 sqm
Lot 15 Block 9 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
**Min. Bid Price: P 616,000**

BV-17 - Vacant lot
LA 167 sqm
Lot 16 Block 9 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
**Min. Bid Price: P 334,00**

BV-18 - Vacant lot
LA 178 sqm
Lot 19 Block 9 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
**Min. Bid Price: P 356,000**

BV-19 - Vacant lot
LA 239 sqm
Lot 20 Block 9 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
**Min. Bid Price: P 478,000**

BV-20 - Vacant lot
LA 225 sqm
Lot 21 Block 9 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
**Min. Bid Price: P 450,000**

BV-21 - Vacant lot
LA 208 sqm
Lot 22 Block 9 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
**Min. Bid Price: P 416,000**

BV-22 - Vacant lot
LA 153 sqm
Lot 23 Block 9 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
**Min. Bid Price: P 306,000**

BV-23 - Vacant lot
LA 182 sqm
Lot 24 Block 9 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
**Min. Bid Price: P 364,000**

BV-24 - Vacant lot
LA 240 sqm
Lot 25 Block 9 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
**Min. Bid Price: P 480,000**

BV-25 - Vacant lot
LA 378 sqm
Lot 26 Block 9 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
**Min. Bid Price: P 756,000**

BV-26 - Vacant lot
LA 120 sqm
Lot 18 Block 8 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
**Min. Bid Price: P 240,000**

BV-27 - Vacant lot
LA 120 sqm
Lot 19 Block 8 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
**Min. Bid Price: P 240,000**

BV-29 - Vacant lot
LA 81 sqm
Lot 15 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
**Min. Bid Price: P 162,000**

BV-30a - Vacant lot
LA 81 sqm
Lot 16 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
**Min. Bid Price: P 162,000**

BV-30b - Vacant lot
LA 81 sqm
Lot 17 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
**Min. Bid Price: P 162,000**

BV-30c - Vacant lot
LA 30 sqm
Lot 19 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
**Min. Bid Price: P 60,000**

BV-35 - Vacant lot
LA 64 sqm
Lot 18 Goldland Royale Homes Subd., San Pascual, Batangas
**Min. Bid Price: P 128,000**

## QUEZON

QL-2 - Lot with Improvement
LA 39,062 sqm
Lofty-type warehouse/ office buildings
Brgy. Mayabobo & Masalacot 3, Candelaria
**Min. Bid Price: P 6,027,225**

QL-3 - Lot with improvement
LA 2,000 sqm FA 276 sqm
Bungalow residential building & warehouse-type rice mill buildings
National Road, Brgy. Malabanban, Candelaria
**Min. Bid Price: P 5,434,200**

QL-8 - Lot with Improvement
LA 180 sqm FA 154 sqm
Bungalow residential building (4BR/2TB)
67 Australia St., Better Living Subd., Iyam, Lucena City
**Min. Bid Price: P 707,750**

QL-9 - Lot with Improvement
LA 125 sqm FA 143 sqm
2-storey residential building (4BR/3TB)
Stephen Compound, Brgy. Iyam, Lucena City
**Min. Bid Price: P 712,500**

QL-10 - Lot with Improvement
LA 1,540 sqm FA 70 sqm
One-storey residential building
Cattleya St., Stephen Compound, Brgy. Iyam, Lucena City
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,335,360**

QL-12 - Lot with improvement
LA 159 sqm FA 127 sqm
Bungalow residential building (3BR/ 2TB)
Lovely Village, Bo. Wakas, Tayabas
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,032,000**

QL-13 - Lot with Improvement
LA 360 sqm FA 600 sqm
Two-storey residential bldg. w/ roofdeck and basement
Provincial Road, Gibanga Sariaya
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,587,000**

QV-1 - Vacant lot
LA 6,485 sqm
Brgy Malabanban Norte, Candelaria
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,459,262**

QV-3 - Vacant lot
LA 20,150 sqm
Brgy Bulakin, Dolores
**Min. Bid Price: P 3,778,125**

QV-4 - Vacant lot
LA 7,732 sqm
Brgy. Domoit, Lucena City
**Min. Bid Price: P 6,186,240**

QV-5 - Vacant lot
LA 546 sqm
St. Peter Subd., Gulang-Gulang, Lucena City
**Min. Bid Price: P 819,000**

QV-7 - Vacant lot
LA 1,400 sqm
Provincial Road, Gulang-Gulang, Lucena City
**Min. Bid Price: P 6,720,000**

QV-10 - Vacant lot
LA 2,096 sqm
Bo. Iyam, Lucena City
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,512,000**

QV-11 - Vacant lot
LA 216 sqm
HL Briones Subd., Bucal, Pagbilao
**Min. Bid Price: P 100,000**

QV-12 - Vacant lot
LA 3,740 sqm
Brgy. Tumabaga, Sariaya
**Min. Bid Price: P 420,750**

QV-13 - Vacant lot
LA 480 sqm
Mansayon St., San Francisco District
Lucena City
**Min. Bid Price: P 588,000**

## ANTIPOLO

PARK-AV-1 - Vacant Lot
LA 446 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd. TCT No.R-1717
Block 13 Lot 7, Parkridge Estates
**Min. Bid Price: P 481,680**

PARK-AV-2 - Vacant Lot
LA 493 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1724
Block 13 Lot 3, Parkridge Estates
**Min. Bid Price: P 532,440**

PARK-AV-3 - Vacant Lot
LA 365 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No R-1725
Block 13 Lot 4, Parkridge Estates
**Min. Bid Price: P 438,000**

PARK-AV-5 - Vacant Lot
LA 404 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1727
Block 13 Lot 6, Parkridge Estates
**Min. Bid Price: P 484,800**

PARK-AV-6 - Vacant Lot
LA 399 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1728
Block 13 Lot 8, Parkridge Estates
**Min. Bid Price: P 478,800**

PARK-AV-7 - Vacant Lot
LA 476 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1729
Block 13 Lot 9, Parkridge Estates
**Min. Bid Price: P 514,080**

PARK-AV-8 - Vacant Lot
LA 407 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No R-1731
Block 13 Lot 11, Parkridge Estates
**Min. Bid Price: P 488,400**

PARK-AV-9 - Vacant Lot
LA 413 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1732
Block 13 Lot 12, Parkridge Estates
**Min. Bid Price: P 495,600**

PARK-AV-10 - Vacant Lot
LA 421 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1733
Block 13 Lot 13, Parkridge Estates
**Min. Bid Price: P 454,680**

PARK-AV-11 - Vacant Lot
LA 414 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1734
Block 13 Lot 14, Parkridge Estates
**Min. Bid Price: P 496,800**

PARK-AV-12 - Vacant Lot
LA 419 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1735
Block 13 Lot 15, Parkridge Estates
**Min. Bid Price: P 452,520**

PARK-AV-13 - Vacant Lot
LA 415 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1736
Block 13 Lot 16, Parkridge Estates
**Min. Bid Price: P 497,400**

PARK-AV-14 - Vacant Lot
LA 412 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1737
Block 13 Lot 17, Parkridge Estates
**Min. Bid Price: P 494,400**

PARK-AV-15 - Vacant Lot
LA 406 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No R-1737
Block 13 Lot 18, Parkridge Estates
**Min. Bid Price: P 487,200**

PARK-AV-16 - Vacant Lot
LA 401 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1739
Block 13 Lot 19, Parkridge Estates
**Min. Bid Price: P 481,200**

PARK-AV-17 - Vacant Lot
LA 425 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No.R-1740
Block 13 Lot 20, Parkridge Estates
**Min. Bid Price: P 510,000**

PARK-AV-18 - Vacant Lot
LA 409 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No R-1741
Block 13 Lot 21, Parkridge Estates
**Min. Bid Price: P 490,800**

PARK-AV-19 - Vacant Lot
LA 465 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No R-1742
Block 13 Lot 22, Parkridge Estates
**Min. Bid Price: P 558,000**

PARK-AV-20 - Vacant Lot
LA 403 sqm
Parkdrive Lot best used as upper middle residential subd TCT No R-1743
Block 13 Lot 23, Parkridge Estates
**Min. Bid Price: P 483,600**

## CAVITE

### MANGO ORCHARD, NAIC

MANGO-CV-1 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 2,649 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956720
Block 1 Lot 8
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,059,600**

MANGO-CV-2 - Farm Lot (Corner Lot)
LA 1,358 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956719
Block 1 Lot 12
**Min. Bid Price: P 543,200**

MANGO-CV-3 - Farm Lot (Corner Lot)
LA 1,296 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No 956751
Block 4 Lot 15
**Min. Bid Price: P 622,080**

MANGO-CV-4 - Farm Lot (Corner Lot)
LA 1,423 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956750
Block 5 Lot 16
**Min. Bid Price: P 683,040**

MANGO-CV-5 – Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 1,770 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956749
Block 6 Lot 2
**Min. Bid Price: P 708,000**

MANGO-CV-6 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 2,688 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956748
Block 6 Lot 3
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,075,200**

MANGO-CV-7 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 2,868 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956747
Block 6 Lot 6
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,032,480**

MANGO-CV-8 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 2,733 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956746
Block 6 Lot 7
**Min. Bid Price: P 983,880**

MANGO-CV-9 - Farm Lot (Corner Lot)
LA 1,856 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956745
Block 8 Lot 2
**Min. Bid Price: P 890,880**

MANGO-CV-10 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 1,267sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956744
Block 9 Lot 15-A
**Min. Bid Price: P 506,800**

MANGO-CV-11 - Farm Lot
LA 1,327 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956743
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Block 20 Lot 2
**Min. Bid Price: P 1,297,200**

MANGO-CV-13 - Farm Lot
LA 1,322 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956741
Block 20 Lot 19
**Min. Bid Price: P 475,920**

MANGO-CV-14 - Farm Lot (Corner Lot)
LA 1,607 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956740
Block 28 Lot 19
**Min. Bid Price: P 771,360**

MANGO-CV-15 - Farm Lot (Corner Lot)
LA 1,399 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956739
Block 28 Lot 2
**Min. Bid Price: P 671,520**

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LA 1,032 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956738
Block 28 Lot 10
**Min. Bid Price: P 371,520**

MANGO-CV-17 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 1,050 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956737
Block 28-A Lot 4
**Min. Bid Price: P 378,000**

MANGO-CV-18 - Farm Lot
LA 1,050 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956736
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**Min. Bid Price: P 378,000**

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**Min. Bid Price: P 398,160**

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**Min. Bid Price: P 648,800**

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**Min. Bid Price: P 608,400**

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MANGO-CV-28 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 1,125 sqm
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Block 37 Lot 1
**Min. Bid Price: P 405,000**

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LA 1,719 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956725
Block 37 Lot 7
**Min. Bid Price: P 618,840**

MANGO-CV-30 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 1,689 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956724
Block 37 Lot 14
**Min. Bid Price: P 608,040**

MANGO-CV-31 - Farm Lot (Inner Lot)
LA 1,050 sqm
Best used as residential with agricultural farm development TCT No.956723
Block 37-A Lot 26
**Min. Bid Price: P 378,000**

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# '8th impeach rap ...

From page A1

A senior committee member, Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte, had pointed out that some of the endorsers of the eighth impeachment complaint were also named in a Commission on Audit (COA) report as among those whose districts had received fertilizer funds.

## Mikey Arroyo

After the defeat of its motion for the inhibition of certain lawmakers, the minority waged a futile attempt to delay the voting on the form, including trying to remove Ms Arroyo's eldest child, Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, from the proceedings.

At 5:31 p.m., Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales and Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño asked Datumanong to act on an "urgent motion for the inhibition" of Mikey Arroyo, which was lodged by the impeachment complainants through their lawyer Neri Colmenares.

The petition was lodged two hours earlier with the Office of the House secretary general.

Both Rosales and Casiño pointed out that the petition should be given due course because it asked for the inhibition of the President's son out of *delicadeza*.

Datumanong, however, ruled that the committee had no power to force its members to recuse themselves, and that the decision should rest with the younger Arroyo, who quickly turned it down.

Mikey Arroyo later told reporters that he had repeatedly consulted his constituents, who said they wanted him to continue discharging his "duties."

## Issue to agree on

It was House Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul del Mar who moved for the early determination of the complaint's form.

"I believe it is obvious that the complaint has satisfied the requirement of sufficiency in form," he said, pointing out that the complaint was duly verified, contained resolutions of endorsement and complied with the format prescribed by the House.

"I think this is an issue that the majority and minority could agree on," he said, after which he made a motion declaring the complaint sufficient in form.

Taken aback by the haste with which the majority was putting the motion to a vote, the House minority pleaded for a debate. But it did not raise an objection when the hearing resumed.

House Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano quickly noted that the majority was following the "script" used last year in disposing of the three impeachment complaints against Ms Arroyo.

## 'Lost' appeal

Voting 43-22, the committee junked the appeal from House Deputy Minority Leader Roilo Golez challenging Datumanong's ruling on Monday that the body had no power to inhibit its members linked to the fund scam.

"There were 22 'yes' votes and 43 'no,' so the appeal was lost," Datumanong said.

According to Golez, the committee members linked to the scam should be inhibited to prevent anyone from questioning their votes later on, when the committee decides what to do with the remaining impeachment complaint against the President.

"There were 38 regular and ex-officio members mentioned. That is quite a sizable number of votes, and it might be very difficult to grapple with the [possible] conflict of interest," he said.

Golez said former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn 'Joc-joc" Bolante, the alleged architect of the fund scam, was set to file a deposition with the US immigration court believed to be hearing his petition for asylum.

He suggested that Bolante might name names.

"I don't know if [the deposition] is going to be relevant, but it might affect their standing in the committee," Golez said in reference to the lawmakers linked to the scam.

## Named in COA report

But Villafuerte pointed out that two of the four endorsers of the remaining impeachment complaint—Bukidnon Rep. Nereus Acosta and Cagayan Rep. Manuel Mamba—were named in the COA report.

He said former Education Secretary and Batanes Rep. Florencio Abad—the husband of another endorser, incumbent Batanes Rep. Henedina Abad—was also mentioned there.

He did not add that the name of Noynoy Aquino, the fourth endorser, was also on the list.

"The COA report transmitted by Representative Golez yesterday included the names of complaint endorsers Acosta, Mamba, and ... Abad, whose wife is now the representative of Batanes," Villafuerte said, adding:

"If we accept [Golez's] motion, it means that if your name is on the list, there is a conflict of interest to be avoided.

"Does this mean that the endorsers should also inhibit themselves [because] their names were on the list?"

Villafuerte said he was "not attacking anyone."

## 'Not an indictment'

"In fact, I'm defending Representative Acosta and the others. Being on the list does not mean that you're already guilty. That's wrong and unfair," he said.

House Deputy Majority Leader Arthur Defensor also defended the committee decision, saying his name had also appeared on the COA list despite the testimony of the witnesses in the Senate inquiry into the fund mess that he was not involved in it.

"If I inhibited, wouldn't that be an admission [of guilt]? Is that your idea of justice? Is that fair?" Defensor said.

He said the insistence on the inhibition of those whose names were on the list was tantamount to "pronouncing judgment that in one way or another, they were involved in an anomaly."

"*Maawa naman po kayo* (Please take pity on us). Please don't convict us by association. The COA list is not an indictment," he said.

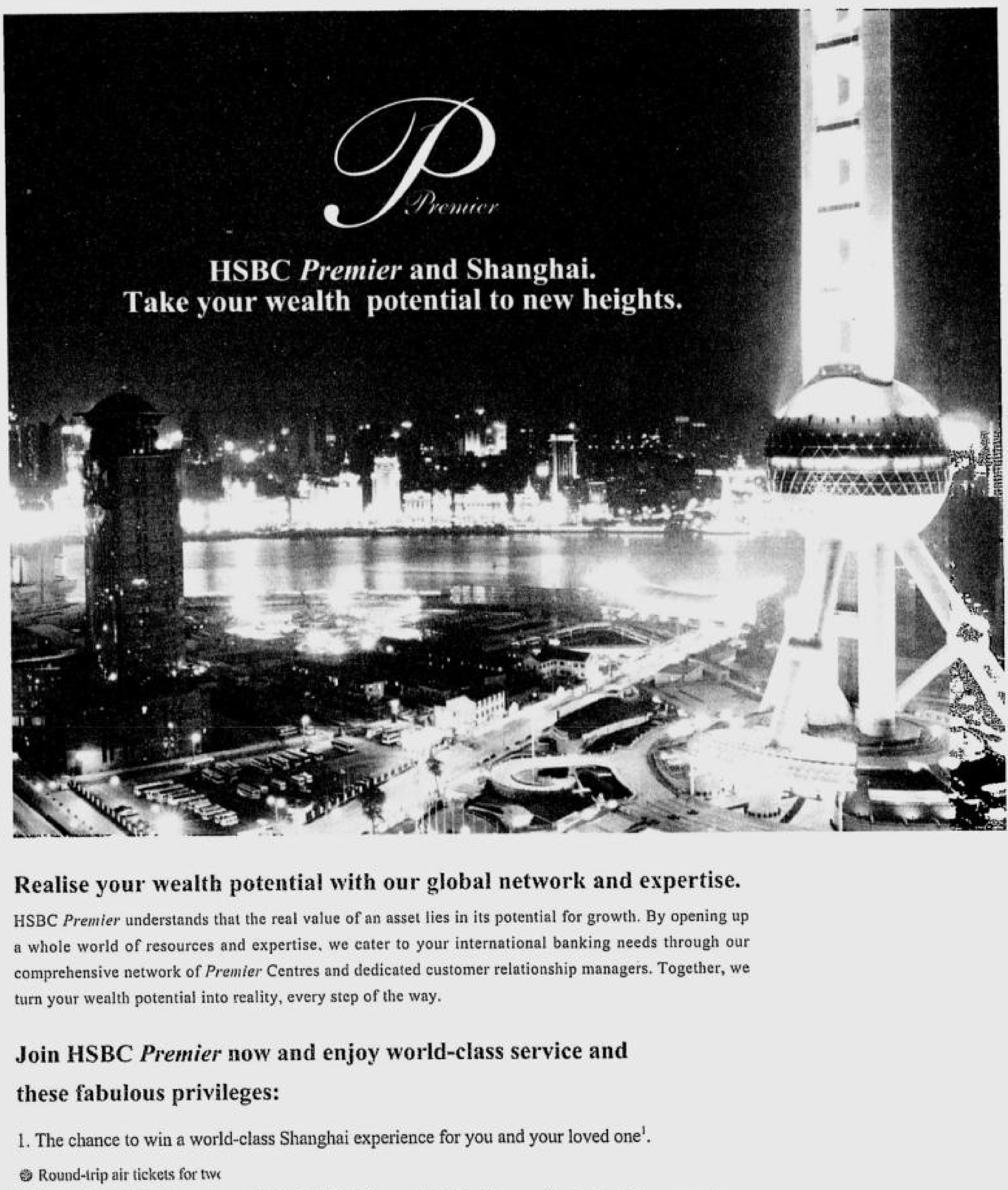
Makati Rep. Teodoro "Teddyboy" Locsin Jr., who was the first to speak out against the fertilizer fund scam on the House floor, also defended the decision not to inhibit, saying that to do so would make the impeachment hearings similar to "the show trials of Josef Stalin."

Locsin said it would be unfair for the named lawmakers to inhibit themselves because it had yet to be proved that they actually received fertilizer funds. He said these lawmakers should be held answerable only to their constituents come election time.

On the other hand, Cayetano said the opposition wanted the named lawmakers to inhibit to keep the impeachment process intact and above suspicion.

**OPPOSITION** House members stand to vote for Rep. Roilo Golez's motion for legislators linked to the fertilizer scam to inhibit themselves from the impeachment process while Rep. Douglas Cagas hangs on to his seat. The motion is defeated.

RAFFY LERMA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# Money talks: GMA execs attend Senate budget hearing

From page A1

ecutive branch from attending congressional hearings without the go signal from Ms Arroyo.

Senate President Manuel Villar said the senators might bring Malacañang's snubs to the Supreme Court anew.

The Supreme Court upheld on April 21 the right of lawmakers to compel the appearance of executive branch officials at congressional inquiries, saying that the issue involving EO 464 pertained not only to Congress' right to know but also the people's right to take part in government affairs.

But the tribunal declared constitutional the President's right to ban executive officials from appearing during the question hour in both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

## Lowliest clerk, too

"I hope EO 464 won't be invoked (in next week's hearing) because they are here in full force. There must be a reason why they are all here now," Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said at the end of a three-hour hearing of the committee chaired by Sen. Franklin Drilon.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said virtually everyone in the executive branch from the highest Cabinet secretary to the lowliest clerk were covered by the President's order barring them from congressional hearings without her consent.

"I might say everyone is covered," Ermita said after the Senate sought clarification from Malacañang on the coverage of its rehashed policy on government officials giving their testimony in Congress.

Because of the big number of Palace officials and lack of time, Drilon scheduled a second hearing for Monday. The officials promised to show up at the next hearing.

Sen. Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada, whose inquiry into the government's piecemeal evacuation of Filipinos from Lebanon was snubbed twice by Cabinet and other executive officials, bitterly noted: "If they ask for funds, they come in full force. But if we want to know about the truth, they snub us."

## Owwa chief, too

The 20 Malacañang officials who appeared yesterday included Marianito Roque, administrator of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, one of six officials the Senate labor committee has subpoenaed to appear in the inquiry into the evacuation of Filipinos from Lebanon.

Roque excused himself at the start of the 1 p.m. hearing to attend to the sea evacuation trial in the war-torn Middle East country. He returned after 3 p.m.

After the hearing, Roque approached Estrada and made what appeared to be a peace offering. He invited the opposition senator to travel to Syria to join officials in attending to Filipino evacuees.

Others who had no trouble coming to the Senate's first budget caucus were Secretaries Rolando Andaya Jr. of budget, Nasser Pangandaman of agrarian reform, Avelino Cruz Jr. of defense and Jesli Lapus of education.

Finance Undersecretary Gil Beltran, Labor Undersecretary Manuel Imson, Metro Rail Transit 3 general manager Roberto Lastimoso, Philippine Health Insurance Corp. senior vice president Melinda Mercado and officials of the Department of Interior and Local Government.

## Abalos, too

Even Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos showed up. The Senate has called for the resignation of Abalos because of his role in the voided deal with Mega Pacific for the automation of vote counting.

Andaya presented Malacañang's request for a P46.4-billion supplemental budget to cover shortfalls in the budget of certain departments due to the non-passage of the proposed national budget of P1.053 trillion for 2006.

He also asked the Senate to approve P500 million as standby fund for the repatriation of Filipinos in Lebanon and other affected countries in the Middle East.

The supplemental budget includes P4.6 billion for the Department of Agrarian Reform's implementation of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program, P8.6 billion for the Department of Education, P1.4 billion for the salaries of jail guards, firemen and benefits of disabled policemen under the DILG, P539 million for the Food or School Program of the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

Some P3.2 billion in subsidy for the MRT 3, P1.56 billion for the Commission on Elections' automation project and preparations for the 2007 mid-term elections, P4.9 billion for the Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund that includes P1.1 billion in PhilHealth premium subsidy for indigents, P1.8 billion for local government units' share from the national health, P4.9 billion for pension payments and P14.9 billion Internal Revenue Allotment for LGUs.

Andaya said the P46.9 billion in supplemental budget would be funded from revenue collections amounting to P191 billion this year.

Sen. Ralph Recto asked why Malacañang was asking for less money now when it could have gotten more had it accepted the 2006 budget version of the Senate, which is lower than P64 billion than what it had proposed.

## Discrepancies in figures

Andaya said he was still hopeful Congress would approve the 2006 budget. But he said he recommended to President Macapagal-Arroyo the supplemental budget "just in case" Congress would not.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III pointed out that Malacañang's supplemental budget in fact sought an increase over the 2005 reenacted budget.

After the hearing, Drilon said Andaya and other Cabinet officials had failed to explain the discrepancies in the figures.

"Because of lack of time, we have requested the secretaries to submit to us a written explanation on the discrepancies," Drilon said.

The senators were keen on grilling Andaya and Roque on the P500 million in standby repatriation fund but they ran out of time.

## PhilHealth cards for polls

The only kinks in the hearing were courtesy of PhilHealth's Mercado.

"I suggest you come to this hearing prepared. Otherwise, this hearing would drag on," an irritated Drilon said after Mercado gave confusing figures on PhilHealth beneficiaries.

Upon Sen. Joker Arroyo's questioning, it was confirmed that the Arroyo administration used the PhilHealth cards during the 2004 presidential elections.

Mercado admitted that from 9.9 million families who had PhilHealth cards in 2003, the number increased to 15 million families in December 2004, just months after the presidential election. But after the national elections, the beneficiaries dropped to 12 million.

"So after the elections, they were left hanging?" Arroyo asked.

## Insurance not renewed

Mercado explained that after the elections, the government did not renew most of the PhilHealth insurance of 6.2 million poor people. She said the President issued an executive order stating that only 2.4 million would be covered hence.

Drilon said the PhilHealth beneficiaries would probably be increased in time for the 2007 elections.

Sen. Edgardo Angara said he saw no problem in the immediate approval of the supplemental budget in the Senate. He said the senators agreed in a caucus last Monday to approve the budget request as soon as possible.

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# '3rd party' steals ...

From page A1

that such a phenomenon had occurred, the weather bureau said.

What made it somewhat strange was that Metro Manila folks expecting heavier than usual rain in most of Luzon because of the presence of Juan and Inday woke up to a bit of sunshine.

Blame it on "a third party," which caused the relatively bright and dry conditions in Luzon and Metro Manila yesterday, said Pagasa weather branch chief Nathaniel Cruz.

"A third weather disturbance, a low-pressure area that has yet to enter the [PAR], is pulling the effects of the southwest monsoon from northern Luzon to the Visayas and Mindanao," Cruz told the INQUIRER.

The low-pressure area has yet to be named, but according to Cruz, it will be called "Katring" if it develops into a tropical depression (a weather disturbance with wind strength of below 65 kilometers per hour) and enters the PAR.

"What we can't figure out is why a low-pressure area, a weak weather disturbance, is managing to pull the southwest monsoon away from a typhoon [like Juan]," Cruz said.

"It is weak and is still way out there. We don't know why it's happening, but it's happening," he said.

Asked if he considered this an "anomaly," Cruz said: "Yes."

"There might be something happening in the upper troposphere that the surface data are not picking up."

(The troposphere is the lowest layer of the atmosphere.)

## Following a track

Typhoons and storms that enter the PAR in August usually follow a track that takes them to either northern Luzon or north of the island.

They usually enhance the southwest monsoon to bring rain over northern and Central Luzon even if they do not make landfall.

Cruz said that instead of falling over Luzon yesterday, the rain fell over the Visayas and Mindanao because of the low-pressure area east of the Visayas (and still outside the PAR).

He said that in Luzon, only the Bicol region as well as Mindoro island experienced rain.

"If there was no low-pressure area, [the effects of the] southwest monsoon would have been pulled by Juan toward northern Luzon. It would have rained over most parts of Luzon," Cruz said.

## Fisherman drowns

In Cebu, strong waves displaced at least 600 persons and destroyed around 60 houses in the coastal villages of Tangke, Dumlog and Poblacion in Talisay City, 12 km south of Cebu City.

A fisherman identified as Juan Abacahan, 50, drowned on Tuesday night off the shore of Barangay Dumlog, according to village chief Charles Basillote.

He said the waves became stronger early yesterday morning, forcing residents to leave their homes.

Basillote said the strong waves brought on by the southwest monsoon (*habagat*) wrecked 60 houses in the sitios of Litmon, Cagang and Kalubihan.

He said most of the displaced families were being sheltered at the barangay hall.

Quoting a partial report, Talisay social welfare officer Coleen Inojada said around 281 families (or 602 persons) had been displaced in Tangke.

More than 100 houses in Sitios Tunga, Rattan and Kilawan were destroyed, said barangay tanod Alex Abanes.

The extent of the damage in Poblacion has yet to be mapped out.

Inojada said her office was distributing food and other supplies to all those displaced.

She said strong waves off the coastal villages of Talisay were common during the *habagat*, "but this is the worst because several houses were destroyed."

In Negros Occidental, the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office reported flooding in five southern towns that affected 5,811 families, damaged 165 houses and destroyed 15 others.

The flooding in the towns of San Enrique (2,252 families affected), Pontevedra (35 families), Pulupandan (188 families), Valladolid (456 families) and Binalbagan (658 families) was triggered by heavy rains brought by Inday and Juan, the PSWDO reported.

Gov. Joseph Marañon said food aid had been sent to the affected towns.

## Today's forecast

Cruz said today's weather in Luzon depended on whether the low-pressure area would dissipate or intensify.

At past 5 p.m. yesterday, the low-pressure area had yet to move from outside the PAR.

But it continues to affect the southwest monsoon more than Juan and Inday does, pulling rain toward southern Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao, Cruz said.

According to Pagasa's 5 p.m. weather bulletin yesterday, there will be relatively dry weather over northern Luzon.

Metro Manila will likely have the same weather as yesterday despite Juan and Inday's presence.

The western section of Central Luzon, Southern Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms that will develop into frequent rains.

The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

"Moderate to strong winds blowing from the southwest and west will prevail over the western section of Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, and the coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough," Pagasa said.

"Elsewhere, winds will be light to moderate, blowing from the southwest and south with slight to moderate seas," it said. *With reports from Jhunnex Napallacan and Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas*

# No Viagra for Indian, 88, in land ...

From page A1

"I don't want to live to 100 but, as long as I live, I should be able to enjoy sex," Jat, who lives in a village in the Barmer district in the western desert state of Rajasthan, was quoted in the newspaper as saying.

The prosperous farmer, with a flowing white beard and a weather-beaten face, says he takes long walks every day and has been drinking fresh camel milk since childhood.

## 3rd wife

Jat's third and latest wife is 45 years younger and delivered male twins last month, but only one boy survived.

The newspaper reported that Jat celebrated the birth of the surviving son with a feast for villagers and said he would try for more children.

While daily sex for a geriatric may be a cause for celebration in India, Thai officials think an active sex life is bad for youngsters.

In Bangkok, cultural watchdogs have banned a line of condoms whose name translates as "Good Penetration," saying the suggestive label could draw youngsters into having sex earlier, newspapers reported Tuesday.

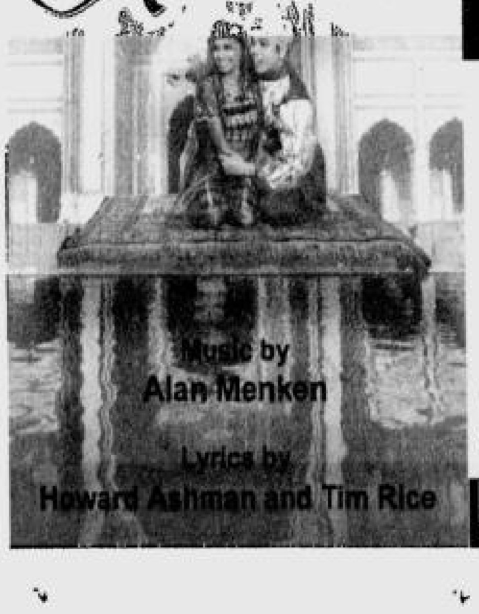
## 'Tom Dundee'

The condoms are actually named "Tom Dundee" after the stage name of a popular country singer, but Ministry of Culture officials said this was inappropriate and offended good norms and culture, the Thai Rath tabloid said.

"Dundee" in Thai means "Good Penetration."

"Although the name is not vulgar or rude, it is ambiguous, boastful and provocative," said Ladda Tangsupachai of the Cultural Watch Center.

"It could entice excessive consumption and lure children and youths with little maturity to start having sexual activities before their appropriate age," she added. *Reuters*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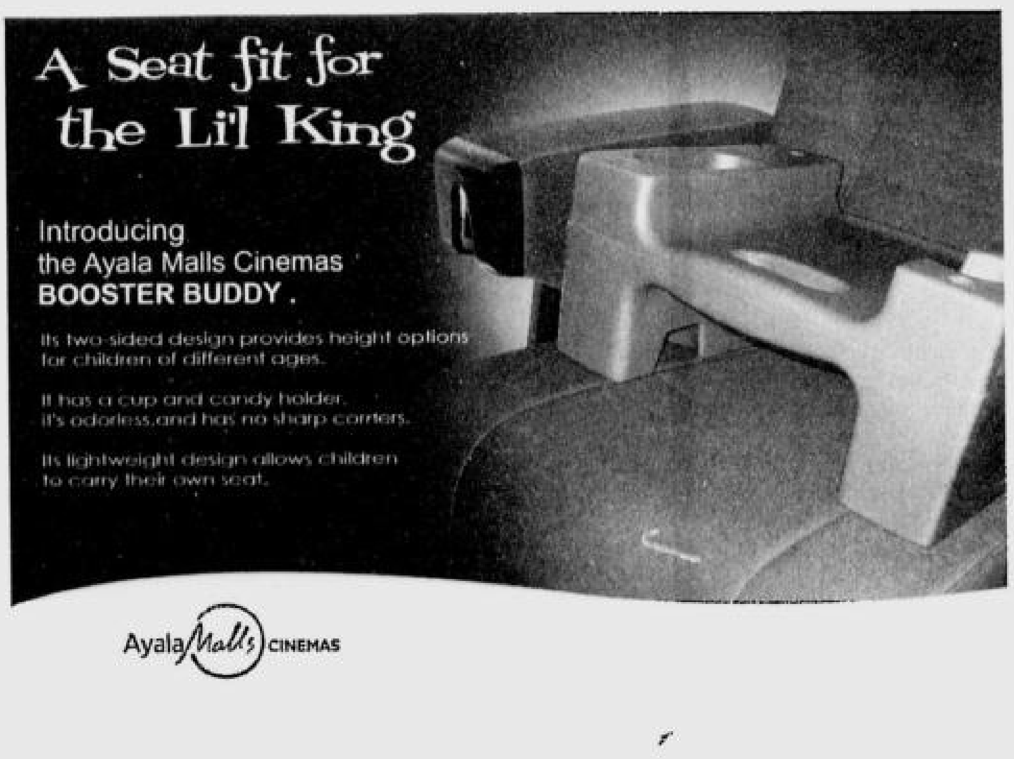
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## NATION IN GRIP OF TERROR

# Solon asks Congress to act on killings

**By Michael Lim Ubac**

WITH THE CONTINUED KILLINGS OF leftist activists and journalists, the nation "is slowly being gripped into the night with terror," said the chair of the House committee on human rights.

In a privilege speech late Tuesday, Manila Rep. Bienvenido Abante Jr., an administration ally, called the attention of Malacañang and Congress to the continued political killings in the country.

Abante's call came on the heels of the conclusion of an international fact-finding mission of the International Peasant Solidarity Mission that found "clear indications" of the involvement of the military, including Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, in most of the political killings since 2001.

Under the command of Palparan, "the military had become more brazen," said the mission which disclosed that "some of the human rights violations were committed by uniformed soldiers or by men in civilian clothes who introduced themselves as soldiers."

Abante said the cold-blooded murder of activists and journalists, and enforced disappearances, were "actually systemic in nature" and thus required no less than drastic measures such as a "national transformation" and quick end to the Arroyo administration's all-out war and militarization of the state through "state violence."

Abante said that although President Arroyo condemned during her State of the Nation Address on July 24 the killings and later ordered authorities to solve at least 10 killings in 10 weeks, extra-judicial killings continued to escalate.

He noted that Palparan, commander of the 7th Infantry Division based in Central Luzon, had announced a "counter-strategy of more violence" to end the spate of violence.

"To him violence begets violence. Oculo prop oculo, dente pro dente. An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth," said Abante.

The lawmaker pointed out that this was the "classical approach to criminal justice which can be traced to as far (back) as the dark ages.

Amid this policy, he noted that the death toll from January to Aug. 1 this year had risen to a total of 123 individuals—or an average of four persons killed every week.

From 2001 to 2004, the extra-judicial killings reached a total of 596, "with victims murdered in cold blood."

Abante then asked Congress to intervene, saying its constitutional mandate was to "give highest priority to protect and enhance the right of the people to human dignity."

"From the human rights perspective, we must always remind ourselves to uphold the fundamental right to life, liberty and property, being the sacrosanct duties of the state to safeguard and protect," said Abante. "In no measure shall any person be denied of such rights, without due process of law nor of equal protection of the laws."

Abante then pushed for the speedy enactment of the pending measure criminalizing torture and the anti-enforced disappearance bill.

## Peter Lee; 78

PETER LEE, OWNER, manager and official host of Peter Lee's Hong Kong Tea House on Mabini St., Ermita, has passed away at age 78.

Sir Peter to his friends in media, Lee left behind his wife Mary, children Jeannette and Larry, Deborah and Cris, Peterson and Lala and Jefferson, and grandchildren Taktak, Anika, Justine and Ryan.

The remains of Lee can be viewed at the Paz Memorial Parlor on Araneta Avenue. Cremation will be held on Friday at the Chinese cemetery.

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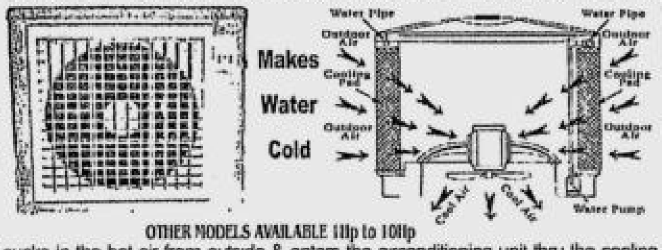

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Ann Hortillosa-Adams, MBA, RN
President/CEO NC STAFFING

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PHILHEALTH CIRCULAR
No. 17, s-2006

TO : ALL ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS AND ALL OTHERS CONCERNED

SUBJECT : Submission of Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) of Hospitals with Outsourced Services

The Corporation is mandated to ensure that quality health care services are provided to all members and dependents of the National Health Insurance Program through accreditation. To meet the accreditation standards set by the Corporation outsourcing of hospital services is resorted. This entails lesser expense in terms of purchasing equipment and other overhead expenses.

In order to implement the outsourcing of services, secondary (level 2) and tertiary (level 3 and 4) hospitals should submit to PhilHealth a copy of the MOA executed between the hospital and the "outsourced service unit" within a month upon the commencement of the service and every renewal of accreditation.

It should be clearly understood that since it is the hospital that is granted accreditation, it is the one responsible for the actions or inactions of the outsourced service unit.

The basic provision of the contract signed by the two parties (the hospital and the "outsourced service unit") shall include among others the following agreements:

1. Provision that the "outsourced service unit" is the hospital's service extension and that it will provide the client the quality of service and safety measures at all times;
2. Outsourced service unit's acknowlegement of the Corporation's right to inspect the "outsourced service unit" including pertinent records for validation of conformity to the requirements of PhilHealth;
3. The validity of the contract which shall cover the entire accreditation period of the hospital.
4. Only a maximum of 3 hospitals can have a MOA with an "outsourced service unit"; and
5. Only the accredited hospital can claim for reimbursement of services to the Corporation provided by the outsourced service unit.

In addition to the basic provisions mentioned above, the following agreements shall be included in the MOA depending on the outsourced service/s offered:

### For the Outsourced *Dialysis* Service

1. Provision stating that the hospital shall be responsible for any untoward incident that may occur during the provision of the outsourced service, and
2. The agreement of the parties involved in providing the medical, nursing, other personnel and the necessary instruments, supplies, and equipment including their maintenance for the outsourced dialysis unit.

### For the Outsourced *Dietary* Service

1. Provision stating that the hospital shall be responsible for any untoward incident that may occur during the provision of the service;
2. Agreement that the hospital shall have an in-house Nutritionist-Dietician (ND) who will be responsible in providing dietetic-counseling services, as well as coordinate with the dietary service provider. However, if the hospital does not have an ND, the outsourced dietary service provider should provide the said personnel;
3. The outsourced dietary service provider shall secure the Sanitary Permit, Business Permit, and Health Certificate/s of the said dietary personnel. Said documents shall be posted conspicuously in the dietary reception area;
4. The PRC license of the ND shall be posted conspicuously in the dietary reception area and shall be attached to the MOA; and
5. Agreement of the parties involved in providing the necessary products, equipment (kitchen utensils) including the preparation of food for the admitted patients.

### For the Outsourced *Ambulance* Service

1. The clear cut guidelines on the functions and responsibilities of the transport service provider including the party who should be accountable in the event that untoward incident happens to the patient during transfer;
2. The agreement between the parties on who shall provide the ambulance doctor;
3. The availability of the vehicle within the premises of the hospital or ambulatory surgical clinic at all times;
4. The ambulance service to have the following equipment, emergency kit, and medicines for the safe transfer of patient/s:

**Equipment**

a. Two (2) portable oxygen tank with gauge;
b. Stretcher;
c. Stethoscope and sphygmomanometer;
d. Nasal Cannula;
e. Facial Mask;
f. Endotracheal tubes;
g. Laryngoscope with blade;
h. Ambubag
i. IV set; and
j. Penlight

**Medicines**

a. Epinephrine ampule;
b. Diazepam ampule;
c. Diphenhydramine ampule
d. Paracetamol ampule;
e. IV fluids

### For the Outsourced *Ancillary* (Laboratory, X-ray and Pharmacy) Services

1. A provision stating that the hospital shall be responsible for any untoward incident that may occur in the provision of service;
2. Agreement that the ancillary service shall provide the following personnel to wit:
    a. Pathologist and Medical technologist *(for the laboratory)*,
    b. Radiologist and Radiological technologist *(for the X-ray)* and
    c. Pharmacist *(for the pharmacy)*.
3. The outsourced ancillary service provider must have a valid license. Said license shall be posted conspicuously in the respective ancillary service areas;
4. The PRC licenses of the medical technologist, radiological technologist and pharmacist shall be posted conspicuously in the area and shall be attached to the MOA; and
5. Agreement of the parties involved in providing the necessary services and equipment for the patients.

Failure to submit the MOA to the Corporation would result to denial or downgrading of accreditation.

This circular takes effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in an Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

(Sgd.) LORNA O. FAJARDO, CESO III
Acting President and CEO

Date Signed: June 30, 2006

# Evacuees evade soldiers, spend night in danger

**By Ephraim Aguilar**
**and Jojo Los Baños**
*Inquirer Southern Luzon*

LEGAZPI CITY—"THE MILITARY DID not notice us," said Maricel Ayala, 22, who decided that her 3-year-old niece and three siblings would rather lock themselves up at home than return to an evacuation center at Gogon Elementary School despite the mandatory evacuation ordered by disaster officials.

They were among those who returned to Bonga village on Tuesday morning along with a group of evacuees who decided to go back daily to their abandoned homes to launder clothes, cook food, bathe and feed their livestock.

But there were some who did not just launder their clothes. They waited for the clothes to dry up. Others did not just feed their pets but also slept with them the whole night, defying the evacuation order.

The village in this city is in the extended danger zone in the southeast sector, some 8.5 km from Mt. Mayon's crater.

"I decided not to make my 3-year-old niece go back to the evacuation center because it was already getting crowded and we feared that they might get sick like the child in the room next to ours that had fever a day after the evacuation," Ayala said.

Ayala, the eldest in the family, said her three siblings, all in high school, had a hard time studying their lessons at night and dressing up for school in the morning.

### Still farming

"We still fear Mayon's fury and are aware of its hazards, but I will just make them go back to the evacuation center if the volcano's unrest intensifies," she told the INQUIRER while she guarded their belongings at the evacuation center while the rest of her family went back to Bonga.

Vicky Abellano, 53, said she feared for her husband who was left at their home in Bonga to guard their belongings and livestock.

"We have to take care of the little belongings and animals we own, especially that we are not rich people," she said.

Her 70-year-old husband also checked on their root crops in the upper part of the village leading to the volcano's foot, Abellano said while walking in the school yard in Barangay Gogon yesterday morning.

"I have been telling him not to go there anymore. But farming and selling our harvest are our main sources of living," Abellano said.

### Where are the goods?

At the San Andres resettlement site in Sto. Domingo, Albay, some evacuees complained that they were not receiving relief goods from the municipal government.

Some of them have been staying there for three weeks already.

The number of evacuees at the site has grown to 5,724 people or 1,101 families, which came from the villages of Fidel Surtida, San Antonio, Sta. Misericordia and San Fernando.

Some of the evacuees who complained of not receiving relief goods on Monday were finally given their meal packs on Tuesday.

Abellano, upon talking to other housewives in the evacuation centers, said the meal packs did not contain the same quantity of goods.

"Some complained the rice was less than four kilos already. While others said they did not receive the two cans of sardines like before. Others lacked a pack of coffee or sugar," she said.

Rowena Nuñez, 39, said she was given relief goods only on Tuesday night, which meant that she and her family did not have a decent meal till that time.

She said she was just asking for food from neighbors, who had just enough for themselves.

Nuñez said that out of hunger, some of the evacuees were forced to go back to their homes where they could eat whenever they wanted because root crops and vegetables were planted in their yards.

"I admit that my family only relies on the relief goods being given to us," she said.

Mercedes Madrona, 86, who was walking in a school yard in Gogon, approached the INQUIRER and asked for money to buy coffee.

She said she only relied on her children for help. "But my children have their own lives now that they are married. So I'm all alone here," she said, nearly in tears.

### Community spirit

Just like when they were still in their village, the evacuees still helped each other and shared whatever they had in the evacuation center.

The small families shared with the big families the relief goods, which were all of the same quantity.

Remedios Miña, 76, whose husband died in the 1993 eruption, said: "Since there are only three of us here in the evacuation center, we shared some of our rice with the other families who do not have enough."

### 6 in one bed

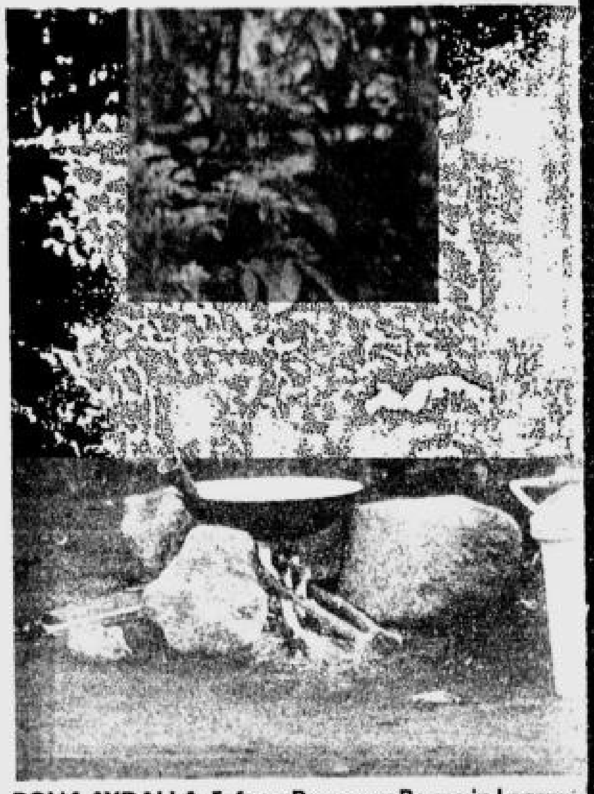
Unlike other evacuation centers in public schools, the San Andres resettlement site is a vacant land where affected villagers had to put up temporary sheds made of nipa and bamboo.

Ezperanza Bande, 67, who took care of two disabled family members at their small tent in San Andres, said they had to endure the cold at night as six of them had to share one bed.

Segunda Bande, 95, had a bad fall that broke her hips while her nephew, Eduardo Romero, 34, was afflicted with polio.

Some evacuees in Gogon returned to their homes after they complained of feeling sick.

Rosemarie Nacion, public health nurse II in the



**RONA AYDALLA, 5, from Barangay Bogna in Legazpi**
**evacuation center in the Gogon Elementary School in**

# Israel orders expansion of ground war in Lebanon

From page A1

ficials said. The Israeli military said the attack was an air strike, not from the sea.

### Military shake-up

Israel's military chief appointed his deputy to oversee Israel's battles in Lebanon, sidelining the current commander in an unusual shake-up as Israel is expected to intensify its military campaign.

The military announced the appointment of Maj. Gen. Moshe Kaplinski in place of Maj. Gen. Udi Adam in a statement Tuesday. Israeli media linked it to apparent plans to broaden its ground offensive, as well as to mounting public criticism of the army's handling of the conflict with Hezbollah guerrillas.

Israeli air strikes leveled a two-story building in the Bekka Valley town of Mashghara, east of Sidon, early yesterday, trapping five people from the same family under the rubble, residents said. Although the father survived with serious wounds, civil defense rescuers frantically searched for his wife and their four children. It was not immediately known whether they were alive.

### Diplomatic efforts

Israeli warplanes also targeted roads and overpasses near the Lebanese-Syrian border in the northern province of Akkar in bombing runs at dawn yesterday, local media reported.

Diplomatic efforts to end the fighting moved slowly, although both Israel and the United States issued positive, if lukewarm, assessments of the Lebanese government's plan to dispatch 15,000 soldiers into south Lebanon after a ceasefire and the withdrawal of Israeli forces.

"It looks interesting and we will examine it closely," Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said. US state department spokesperson Sean McCormack said the proposal was significant, but President George W. Bush warned against leaving a vacuum into which Hezbollah and its sponsors are able to move more weapons."

### Favors Israel

While Bush said a UN Security Council resolution was needed quickly, the council put off for at least one day voting on a US-French ceasefire proposal to allow three leading Arab officials to present arguments that the resolution was heavily tilted in favor of Israel and did not "take Lebanon's interest and stability into account."

Both the US and French envoys to the United Nations indicated there might be room for limited compromise.

### Limited travel

Travel in Lebanon's south had been severely limited since early in the conflict because roads had been cut by Israeli air strikes, many civilians were killed on the roads trying to flee the fighting and rescue and aid workers also were in danger.

But residents had been able to move in vehicles with relative safety inside towns and villages to continue daily routines. Now they are feeling trapped in their homes as well as under constant threat of air attacks. The psychological strain was sure to begin showing quickly.

Some of the fiercest ground fighting on Tuesday continued around the village of Bint Jbail, a Hezbollah stronghold that Israel has tried to capture for weeks. Five Israeli soldiers were killed there, the military said, claiming 35 Hezbollah guerrillas died in the fighting. Hezbollah would not confirm any deaths.

The Israeli Army said at least 160 rockets hit northern Israel, most of them in and around the towns of Nahariya, Kiryat Shemona, Maalot, Safed. No Israeli civilians died Tuesday.

### 47 Lebanese civilian deaths

The total number of Lebanese civilian deaths rose by 47 on Tuesday as rescue workers pulled 14 more bodies from the wreckage of two buildings in south Beirut that were hit by Israeli missiles the night before. The toll in that attack now stands at 30.

One of the most tragic stories was that of Ali Rmeity. He was badly wounded and winced with pain in the Mount Lebanon hospital near Beirut. Three of his children were dead and his only surviving son was in intensive care. He hadn't been told because doctors said they feared the 45-year-old could not stand the shock.

Rmeity was at home with his wife and four children shortly after nightfall Monday when Israeli missiles slammed into their apartment building in the predominantly Shiite southern Beirut suburb of Chiah.

Half of the 30 people killed in the strike were from Rmeiti's family.

Since the fighting began, at least 689 people have died on the Lebanese side of the conflict. The Israeli toll stood at 103 killed—36 civilians and 67 soldiers.

### UN suspends aid delivery

The United Nations suspended attempts to send relief to southern Lebanon because of heavy shelling in the area, said Christian Berthiaume of the World Food Program in Geneva, Switzerland, though aid shipments were arriving elsewhere in the country.

"The Israeli forces were warning today, saying that there shouldn't be any vehicles in the southern part of Lebanon," she said.

"They had exempted humanitarian convoys (but) we decided not to go because there has been heavy shelling the last 24 hours." *Reports from AP and Reuters*

# 'Magic 7' and how bombing 'saves' 4 OFWs

From page A1

was crying, thinking she would never be able to go back to the Philippines. A soldier, she said, told her to calm down.

### 4th IOM mercy flight

Then a bomb exploded, the building shook, and Lebanese policemen scampered out. One yelled, "You can go! You can go," Asis recounted.

The four were among 37 Filipinos, including a 7-year-old boy, who arrived yesterday afternoon at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on an Etihad Airways flight organized by the International Organization for Migration.

It was the fourth IOM mercy flight for Filipinos in Lebanon organized by the Geneva-based humanitarian group upon the request of Philippine officials.

Yap recounted that she was with hundreds of Filipinos who had arrived at the Syrian border at 11 a.m. on Saturday. They were the same group that had to turn back and return to the relocation center in Beirut after the Israelis bombed the main highway to Damascus.

On their second attempt, the group had traveled nearly 11 hours through a longer detour route and finally got to the border and a confrontation with the Lebanese soldiers.

Many overseas Filipino workers who had returned to Manila have told the INQUIRER that Lebanese employers attempted to stop them from leaving the assembly point for repatriation at the Church of the Miraculous Medal in Sassine, Beirut.

Another returnee yesterday, Reynold Villaverde, said that Lebanese employers accused Filipino domestic helpers of petty theft in an attempt to prevent them from escaping the escalating war in Lebanon.

Villaverde said seven women had fled to the border earlier but were brought back to the Church after their employers filed charges against them. While waiting for their cases to be cleared, the women helped prepare food for the evacuees.

### 'Magic 7'

"Word went around that from the detention center at the border, they were transferred to four other precincts before they were finally brought back to the relocation center in Beirut," Villaverde said.

The women said they were not harmed, he recalled, but that they had to sleep on beds filled with cockroaches. Because they survived the ordeal, they were called the "Magic 7."

Some of the seven were finally cleared of the charges against them and were able to return to the Philippines, said Villaverde, who worked as a driver while his wife was a housemaid.

Another 1,150 OFWs are expected to arrive this week, including 250 today in a government chartered flight. Two more chartered flights, each bringing home 450 OFWs, are to arrive tomorrow and on Saturday.

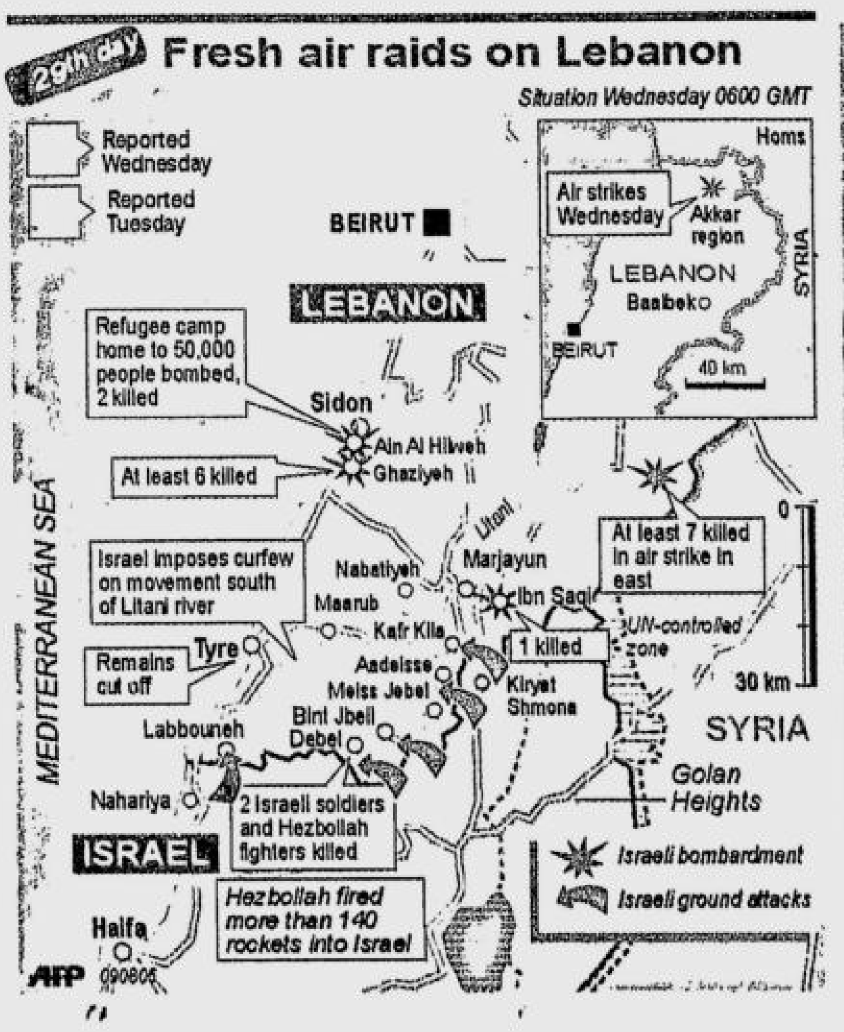
### Heroes in Israel

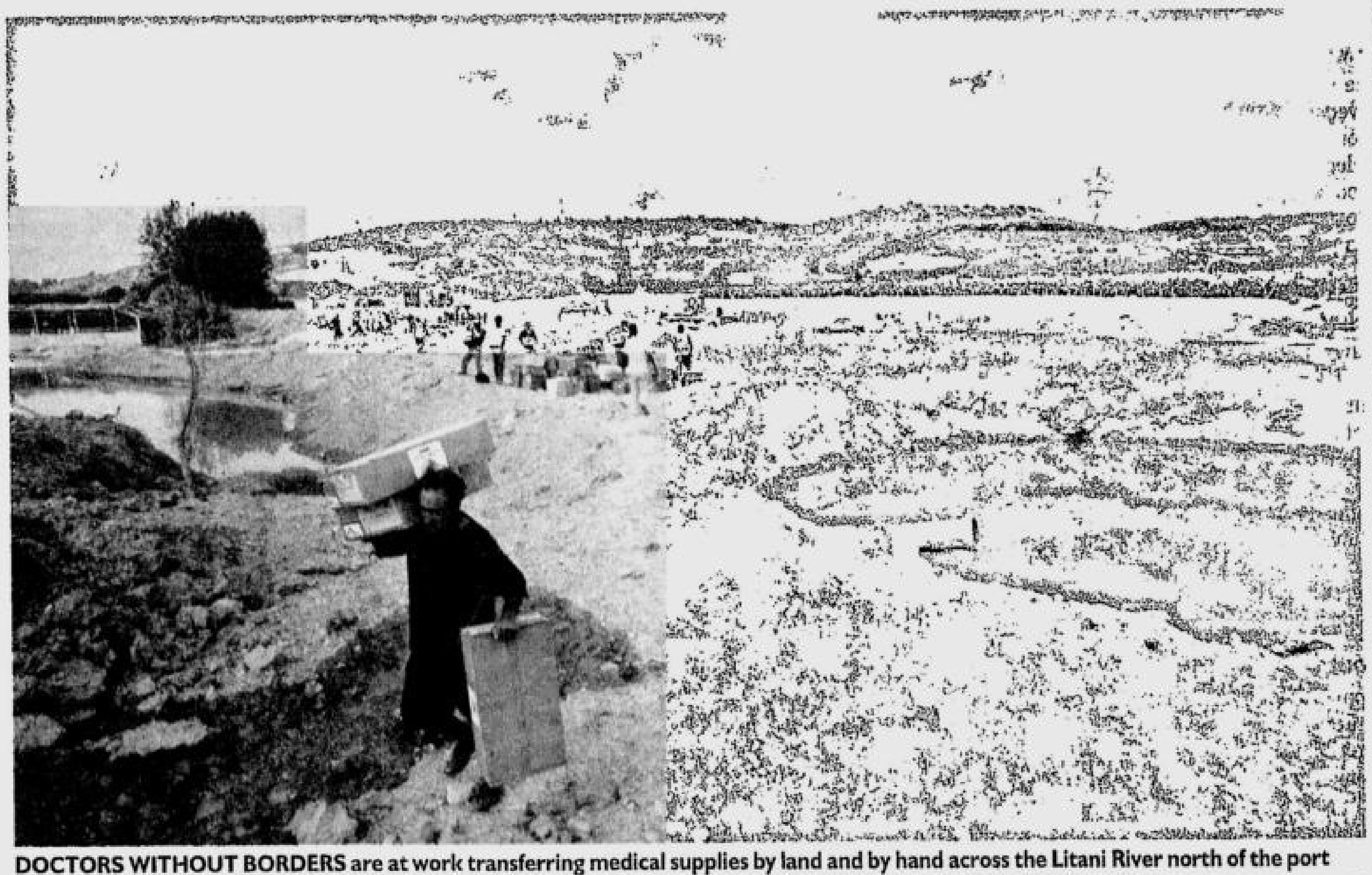
Also yesterday, Labor Secretary Arturo Brion said that the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Israel had reported that many Jewish families had expressed gratitude to OFWs for their loyalty and heroic services in the midst of the ongoing conflict.

Brion cited the case of Avelina Aquino, who remained in the house of an Israeli family that came under a rocket attack, killing two children and wounding a third, who asked her to take care of her mother before she lapsed into a coma.

"The trust reposed in Ms Aquino ... indicates the Filipinos' universal values and humanity," said Brion.

Brion also said that the family of Elma Danao, who was killed in Tel Aviv by a mentally ill member of the household that had employed her, would receive P220,000 in insurance benefits. *With a report from Jerome Aning*





**DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS** are at work transferring medical supplies by land and by hand across the Litani River north of the port city of Tyre in southern Lebanon. The only road linking the river and Tyre was destroyed by Israeli bombardment. AP

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# zone

City, keeps watch over the family meal at the egazpi.
EDWIN BACASMAS

Sto. Domingo Rural Health Unit, said most of the illnesses they had documented at San Andres were upper respiratory tract infections like cough and colds while others suffered from diarrhea and fever.

She acknowledged that the local government did not have enough supplies to sustain medical services for the evacuees.

# 3 out of 10 Filipinos want to leave RP

**From page A1**

possibility of doing so, the results showed. A slightly bigger number (37 percent) said they would stay in the country.

The survey was conducted from June 24 to July 8, using face-to-face interviews with a multistage probability sample of 1,200 Filipino adults aged 18 years old and above. It had a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points at the 95-percent confidence level.

## 10 percent

A total of 8 million Filipinos, or 10 percent of the country's population, either live or work abroad.

As of December 2004, nearly 3.2 million Filipinos were permanently residing abroad, according to the Commission on Filipinos Overseas.

While most of the country's migrant workers are deployed in the Middle East, nearly 2.3 million Filipino immigrants, or legal permanent residents abroad whose stay does not depend on work contracts, are in the United States alone.

Levels of uncertainty regarding migration increased 6 percentage points from 26 percent in March, while the number of respondents who spurned migration also decreased by 6 percentage points from 43 percent, according to the Pulse Asia survey.

## Indecisive

In July last year, the sentiment against migration was shared by more than half of Filipinos (52 percent), higher by 15 percentage points than today's level. Indecision levels, meanwhile, increased by 11 percentage points, from 21 percent a year ago.

While nearly half of the respondents still believed that the country was not hopeless, the sentiment of hopefulness dropped to 49 percent from 69 percent in July last year.

Between March and July, levels of hopefulness nationwide dropped 10 percentage points, from 59 percent four months ago. But the number of those who agreed that the country was hopeless increased 10 percentage points in a year, from 11 percent in July 2005.

## A few in control

The survey also showed that while few Filipinos believed that democratic governance was existing in the country, four out of 10 Filipinos (41 percent) acknowledged that the country was under the control of a powerful few and that ordinary citizens could not do anything about it.

The belief is strongest in Metro Manila (55 percent) and in socioeconomic Classes A, B and C (48 percent).

Half of the respondents (50 percent) reject martial law as a solution to the country's urgent problems, the survey showed. Public disagreement against its imposition dropped 9 percentage points from March and 17 percentage points from July last year.

Uncertainty levels, on the other hand, increased 18 points, from 14 percent last year. Between March and July 2006, they increased 12 points from 20 percent to 32 percent.

The survey was conducted before hostilities in Lebanon began.

## 'All-out war'

Topping the headlines at the time were the serial filing of impeachment complaints against President Macapagal-Arroyo, her declaration of "all-out war" on communist rebels, the abolition of the death penalty, the probable filing of impeachment charges against election commissioners involved in the Mega Pacific deal, and the recapture of six Magdalo officers.

# NPA attacks soldiers near Mayon

**From page A1**

camp assisting in the evacuation of residents living within the 8-km extended permanent danger zone.

Maj. Ramon Rosario, Solcom civil relations group commander, said those injured were repacking relief goods for the evacuees.

"The rebels only wanted to show the public, especially the businessmen, that they are still a force to reckon with, but they are attacking non-combatants," Rosario said.

The 7,400-member NPA has been waging a decadeslong Maoist insurgency in the country.

Lt. Col. Rhoderick Parayno, the new Solcom public information officer, identified the wounded as T/Sgt. Lanilla, Sgt. Estrada, Pfc. Sumpay, Pfc. Rongap and Sgt. Nelson Pagao.

## 4 operations vs Army

From Monday to Wednesday, the NPA staged four operations against the military and police in Camarines Norte, Legazpi City and Catanduanes.

Hampered by communist rebels and reluctant residents, troops yesterday raced to move stragglers away from Mayon.

A two-day drive by the military and local government has seen 39,422 people evacuated from villages around the country's most active volcano, which is showing strong signs of erupting, the provincial disaster coordinating council said.

Officials said the main problem was dissuading residents from returning to their homes amid an apparent lull in the eruptive phase.

Farmers have been sneaking out of evacuation centers in the morning to work their farms on the fertile volcanic soil and guard their property.

The civil defense office in Manila said troops and police had set up checkpoints on Mayon's lower slopes to enforce a "no human activity" zone within 8 km of the crater.

Volcanologists have warned that Mount Mayon could explode at any time but that the gravitational pull of a full moon yesterday could provide the final push.

"To put it in a simple way, it's like it massages a volcano," Ernesto Corpuz, head of monitoring and eruption prediction at the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs).

A full moon coincided with at least three of Mayon's nearly 50 explosions over the last four centuries, including the two most recent in 2000 and 2001, Corpuz said.

But some villagers have not yet left their livestock and vegetable plots despite an encroaching four-story wall of scalding lava that has streamed more than 6 km from Mayon's crater. *(Stories on Page A8.)*

Benjamin Esquivel, 70, said he would leave his home in the danger zone only when the volcano erupted.

"My parents told me a full moon triggers an eruption and I believe them because they lived through many explosions," said Esquivel, who lost three sons when Mayon blew in 1993.

His wife and two children have left for an evacuation center but he was staying behind to look after their chickens and pigs.

## Alert level 4 on

Officials worried that a reduction in gases from the volcano could mean something has blocked the flow inside the crater, raising the chances of an explosive eruption.

It could also mean that the volcano is just taking a brief break after a flurry of activity led scientists to raise the alert level Monday, warning that an eruption was imminent.

The number of volcanic quakes yesterday morning decreased from the previous 109 to only 21 while the sulfur dioxide emissions declined from 12,745 tons per day to 7,829 tons per day.

Phivolcs reminded the public that alert level 4 was still in effect and that the extended danger zone of 8 km from the summit in the southeast part should be observed.

An aerial inspection found human activity within the 7-km permanent danger zone.

Male evacuees could not be prevented from going back to their homes to attend to their farms and animals, while women would wash their clothes and get additional provisions they needed at the evacuation centers.

"Livestock are still present in the area and some farmers are still tending their crops," said Arnel Capili, Office of Civil Defense-Bicol director.

As of yesterday morning there were a total of 6,466 families composed of 30,604 persons evacuated from the three cities and five municipalities of Albay, which are around the volcano.

## Food assistance

Capili said total food assistance of P417,698 was extended by the local government of Legazpi City to the evacuees housed in four assigned centers in the city.

Additional families came from Barangay Upper Padang in Legazpi City and Barangays Budiao and Busay in Daraga.

Some 200 families of Barangay Upper Padang have joined the evacuees housed in Albay Central School.

## Additional funding of P250M

Relief agencies and residents are bracing themselves for a long stay in makeshift evacuation centers, mainly schools.

"For the time being, food is not the problem," Legazpi Mayor Noel Rosal said, but appealed for help from the national government.

The effort can be sustained until the end of the week but if the evacuation drags on for weeks it will deplete the city's calamity fund, Rosal said.

It costs about P367,000 a day to feed and house the estimated 10,802 people taking shelter in Legazpi's schools.

Rosal said he expected President Macapagal-Arroyo to announce aid from the national government when she visits the evacuees this weekend.

Ms Arroyo announced the aid yesterday. She ordered the budget department to prepare an extra P250 million in calamity fund to augment the P76 million earlier disbursed by the national government. *With reports from Juan Escandor Jr., Fernan Gianan, Ephraim Aguila and Gil Francis Arevalo, Inquirer Southern Luzon; AFP and AP*

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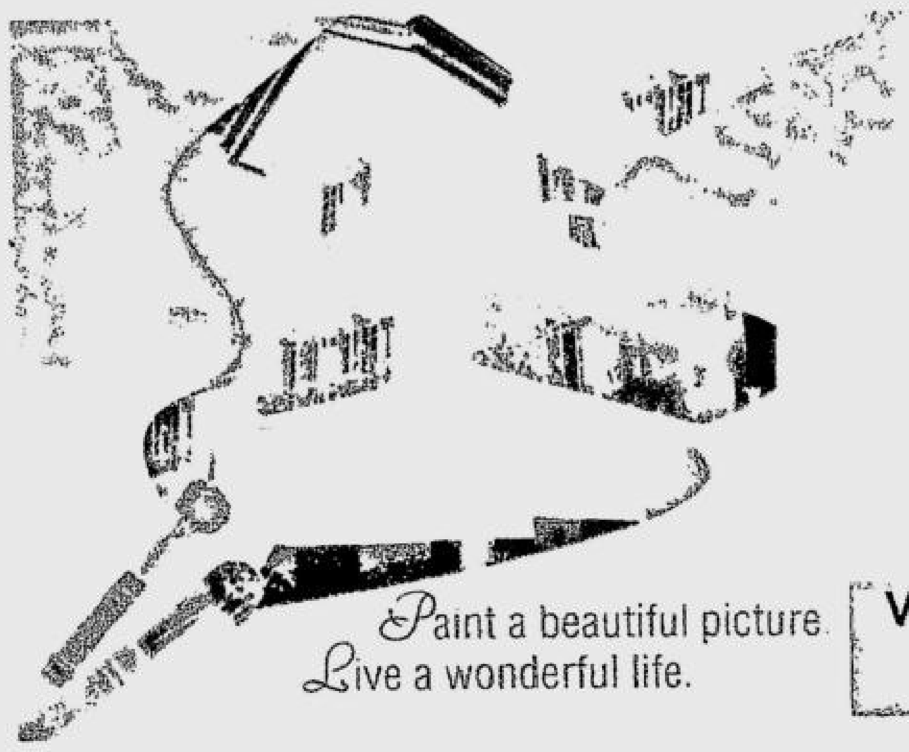

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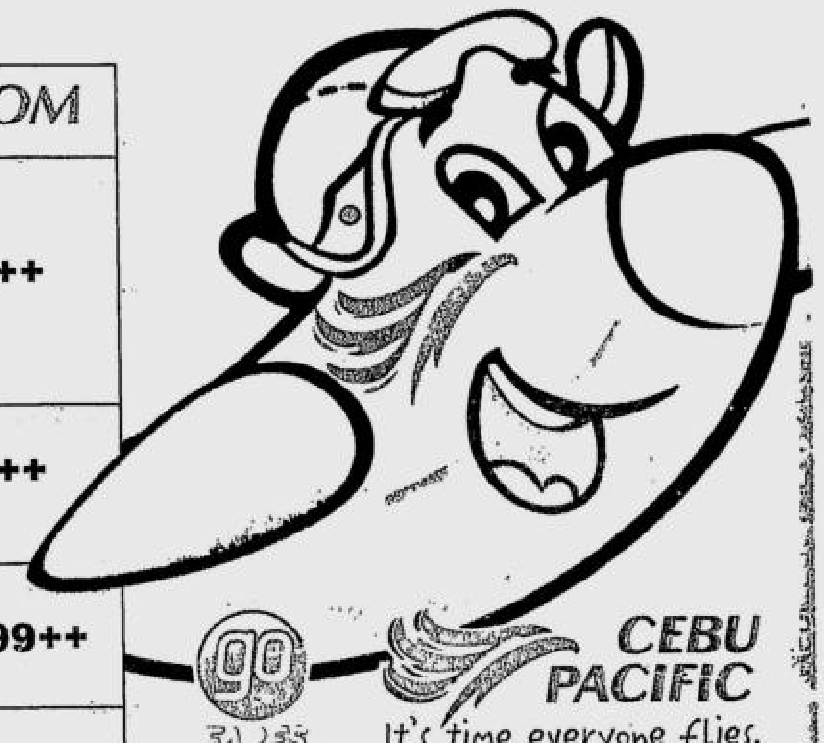

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# Sneaky

**EDITORIAL**

LAWYER ROMULO MAKALINTAL FORMALLY ASKED the Supreme Court last Monday to allow the Commission on Elections to use the 1,991 mothballed ballot-counting machines in the 2007 elections. The machines, for which the government has already paid more than P849 million, are now gathering dust in a warehouse, following the decision of the Supreme Court nullifying the contract between the Comelec and Mega Pacific eSolutions in January 2004. The Court ruled that in awarding the contract to Mega Pacific, the Comelec violated the law and its own rules. It ordered the Office of the Ombudsman to look into the liability of everyone who had a hand in the bidding and award of the contract, directed the Office of the Solicitor General to recover the money, and asked the Comelec to "refrain from implementing any other contract or agreement entered into with regard to this project."

Makalintal has argued that while the Court found some irregularity in the contract, "it did not say we cannot use the computers." The government has already paid for the computers, he said, and it should use them now "while waiting for the final verdict." Otherwise, he added, the government would twice be a loser if it fails to recover the money and allows the computers to rot unused.

In announcing his plan, Makalintal made it clear he would be filing the petition in his capacity as a taxpayer. But curiously he seems to be arguing along the same lines as Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos, who insists to this day that the Court never found anything wrong with the machines and that using those machines now would be the cheapest and quickest way to computerize the polls. Even curiouser is that Malacañang officials jumped quickly to endorse the proposal of Makalintal, who is also President Macapagal-Arroyo's election lawyer. Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said that the use of the Mega Pacific computers would move the country closer to achieving one item in the President's 10-point agenda: the automation of the elections. All three noted that Science Secretary Estrella Alabastro has certified that the machines are "100-percent reliable and accurate." And Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor pointed out that then Chief Justice Hilario Davide found nothing wrong with the use of the machines.

What Davide actually said in his dissenting opinion—which Abalos keeps telling anyone who cares to listen—was that there was "no suggestion that graft and corruption attended the bidding process." But unfortunately for Abalos and the other officials involved in the transaction, Davide was not the Davide Court, and in this case the Chief Justice's opinion was not shared by the majority.

And what were the key findings of the majority? One, was that the Comelec awarded the contract "not only in violation of the law and jurisprudence, but also in reckless disregard of its own bidding rules and procedures." Two, was that the machines failed eight critical tests, including the standard of accuracy set by the Comelec, the ability to detect election results previously downloaded, and the capacity to print "audit trails of the count and canvass." The Court went on to warn that if those machines were to be used, the nation faced "the grim prospect of election fraud on a massive scale by means of just a few strokes."

Not long after the Court came down with its ruling and its order to prosecutors to run after everyone responsible for the scam, it reaffirmed its decision by throwing out a petition for reconsideration. And that should have been the end of the case.

So what is Makalintal, with obvious encouragement from Malacañang, trying to do? It seems that after realizing that the main door is shut tight, he wants to sneak through the backdoor to clean up the mess using, as his broom, practicality, expediency and the need to make next year's elections clean and honest. If he can persuade the Court to let the Comelec use those machines, the case against Mega Pacific and the Comelec crumbles. Then it would be pointless for the government to try to get back what it has paid to Mega Pacific and it would be very difficult to prove that Abalos and company had approved a deal that was disadvantageous to the government. And then, of course, the Supreme Court would find itself eating its own words and effectively revoking its own order directing investigating agencies to pursue the case.

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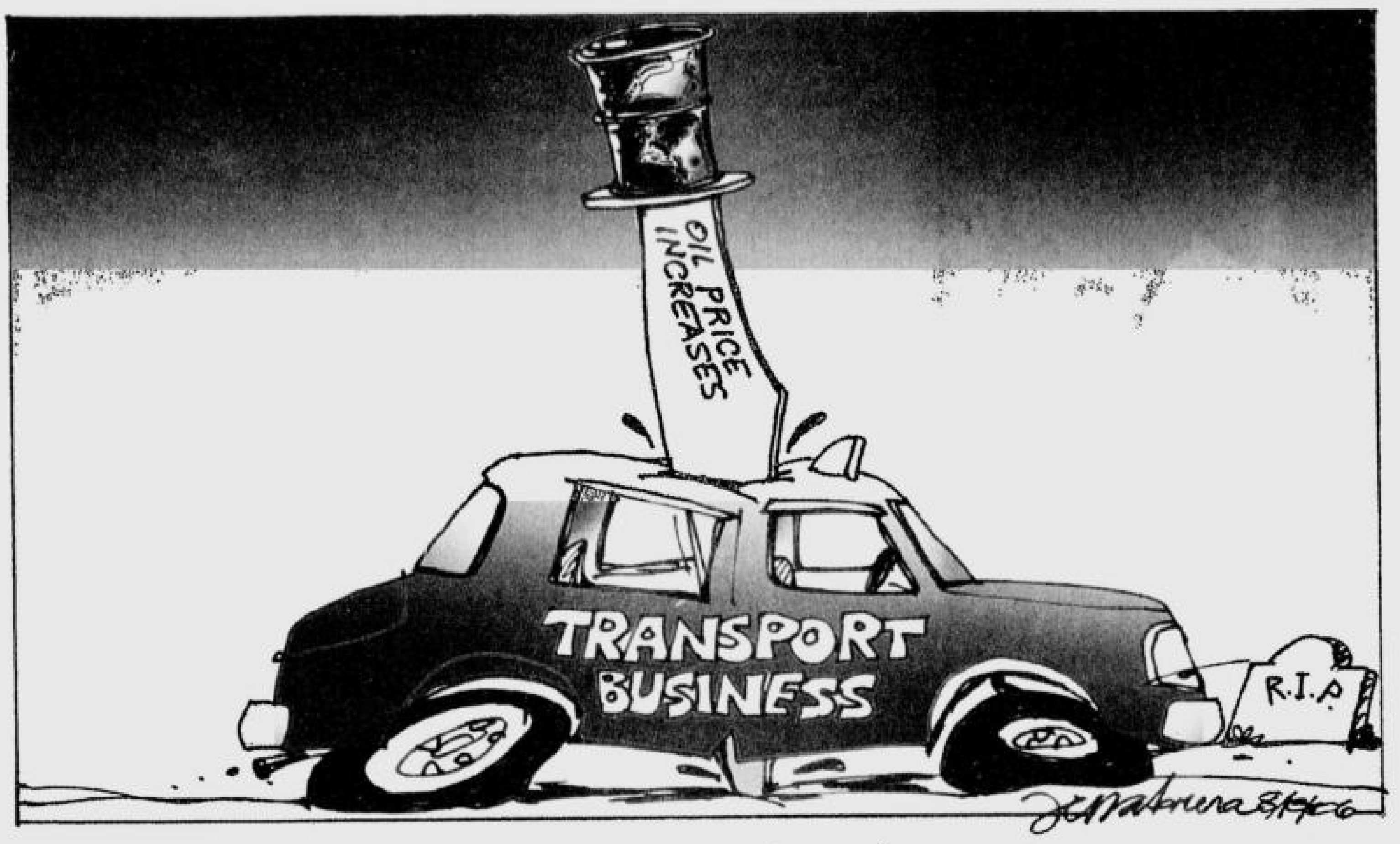

# Other yardstick

**VIEWPOINT**

*Juan L. Mercado*

NOTHING RAISES THE HACKLES OF POLITICIANS more than the cash-crammed Internal Revenue Allotments (IRAs). They argue about who gets more IRAs—and how. But few work by this yardstick: "To whom more is given, more is required."

IRAs are the shares of provinces, cities and towns from the national taxes collected. The IRA pool is a hefty purse: last year, it was P151.6 billion. Pangasinan, Cebu, Negros Occidental, Bulacan got substantial slabs. The topnotchers: Quezon, Davao and Manila.

Today, 65 centavos of every LGU tax peso come from IRAs. They keep the poverty-mired Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao afloat as they do with fourth and fifth class towns from Batanes to Tawi-Tawi.

The Constitution and Local Government Code stipulate that cash in the tills must be shared, whoever the transient Malacañang tenant is. But there are "escape hatches."

Various presidents suspended, delayed or trimmed IRA releases. A cash crunch forced the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap ) to agree to a "drastic deferment" of the 10-percent increase last year.

Sen. Franklin Drilon has waded into the IRA struggle. He would cobble new guarantees for the IRAs' automatic release. Local officials should not have to "beg Malacañang."

Many go beyond Drilon's dole-out-curry-favor approach. "A carrot-and-stick approach is necessary to motivate LGUs, specially in service delivery and poverty reduction," noted participants in the 2006 Asian Development Bank conference on "Performance Measurement Systems."

The suggestion was based on a survey of 20 cities, 28 towns in 11 regions. Pry the IRAs loose from their present hand-out mold, the participants said. Instead, link the IRAs' releases to "performance criteria." No action, no shekels.

"Setting targets with specific time frames will push LGUs to efficiently collect their taxes," the ADB report said. "(This would make) LGUs more financially independent rather than highly dependent on central government transfers."

Many LGUs treat IRAs as a crutch. Few regard them as a tool to enable them to reinforce their local tax base.

Nationwide, only 13 percent, or P22.8 billion, was raised from real estate levies, the COA reports. Significantly, the tax on idle land netted only P0.003 billion. The landed elite, who sit in LGUs, aren't about to tax themselves.

"Local governments treat IRA as (an) unconditional dole," an earlier United Nations study points out. "And there's need to reverse this trend" toward embedded beggary.

Doles crimp growth. And development—which means enlarging human choices—results from policies that tap local resources and people's participation.

Local income should, in fact, be higher than the IRAs. "An ideal initial percentage ratio between local and national government is 50-50," UN suggests. "In the long run, LGUs should aim for at least a 70 to 30 ratio. Local taxes (should be) the mainstay."

Since IRAs lack performance yardsticks, a good size of the money pool twists into a mini-pork barrel.

The "20 Percent Development Fund," for example, was intended for unmet basic human needs: potable water, sanitation, preventive health care, nutrition, etc.

But officials of Davao Oriental's Sangguniang Panlalawigan and Pinamungajan town in Cebu ladled "financial assistance" for themselves. Mayor Tomas Osmeña's barangay leaders bought themselves high-powered motorcycles and handguns. Dapitan spent over P1 million for an executive band, etc.

Today, the more brazen misuse of funds are thinly disguised junkets. Local officials go on an all-expense paid "Lakbay Aral." Few even give reports. Mandauae City Mayor Thadeo Ouano, hauled 90 officials to Camiguin Island for a three-day "strategic planning conference." The cost: P700,000.

The Catholic Social Action Secretariat has monitoring teams for 85 barangays in 27 dioceses nationwide. They assess the use of the 20-percent development funds. Some barangay officials used (IRA) funds for "observation or exposure trips," it reported. Mechanical allocations, by simply "increasing land area or population, could rig the Internal Revenue Allotment's computation .... A community has the right to know how funds were used. Officials must be mandated to report their IRA and its usage."

Naga mayor and Magsaysay awardee Jesse Robredo, publishes the city's budget and contracts. He posts them on the Internet. In contrast, many LGUs hold conclusions of performance indicators close to their chests, the ADB conference participants noted. "These are internal management tools ... and need not necessarily be disseminated to the public."

Filed in the 11th Congress by Romeo Candazo, House Bill 7845 is a "fairly innovative" approach, the ADB said. It set targets with specific time frames for achieving them. Incentives go to those who deliver; penalties are clamped on those who flub.

There's no such thing as a free lunch. For starters, ask LGUs to show the color of their money, the UN says. They must "put up equity to the grant." This will scrub the dole-out mindset.

Unliquidated cash advances drawn by officials are a perennial problem. How about docking the LGUs an amount equal to what their deadbeat officials rack up?

Officials are prohibited from using IRAs to pad their allowances. The Anti-Graft Law penalizes conflict-of-interest decisions.

More telling are the human development indicators. The LGUs that make demonstrable progress in curbing malnutrition, providing safe water, improving health services and expanding basic education should be rewarded. Those who deny progress to people should be dunned.

"To those whom much is given, more is required." If the LGUs want larger IRA slabs, they must prove that they deliver. Otherwise, we revert to square one: "Whoever captures the Palace captures the only government there is."

* * *

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# Foulness

**THERE'S THE RUB**

*Conrado de Quiros*

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY EDUARDO ERMITA exudes confidence. "If they think they want to bring us to court again, we are prepared for them." That was what he said in defiance of the Senate summons for several government officials, chief of them from labor, to appear before the Senate to explain what they were doing with OFW money. Al Francis Bichara, the Philippine ambassador to Lebanon, had complained a couple of weeks ago that he was powerless to aid the fleeing overseas Filipino workers because he had no money. Which prompted everyone, including the Senate, to echo the question that rose from the mouth of Fr. Agustin Advincula, the Filipino priest in Beirut: Where have all the OFW billions gone?

So far we have heard about Father Advincula doing everything in his power to get relief goods from the Red Cross and other relief agencies to feed the horde that has flocked at his door. So far we have heard about a Greek tycoon who is so thankful to Filipinos for having helped him build a fortune in shipping he wants to help them any way he can. So far we have heard about the OFWs themselves, mostly women, mostly maids, by dint of luck and daring, escaping from their employers who refused to let them go, climbing down floors and climbing up walls, hiding in ditches and hitching rides till they found their way to safety.

So far, all we've heard from government is that it sent $150,000 to our embassy in Lebanon. And that was four days after Bichara complained that credit was good but he needed cash. Cash might not move mountains, it might not even move hearts, but it moved butts. Which brings us back to the question: Where have all the OFW billions gone?

Ermita exudes reasonability. He had asked the Senate to defer the hearing on the Owwa fund, he said, because the officials the Senate wanted to question were busy with the relief effort.

Like how? How many people do you need to carry out the relief effort? What can you do in the coffee shops of hotel lobbies in Metro Manila to carry out the relief effort in Lebanon? I'll buy Ermita's proposition if we actually see Labor Secretary Arturo Brion, Owwa Administrator Marianito Roque, Budget Secretary Rolando Andaya, Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos Jr., POEA Administrator Rosalinda Baldoz and Palace Undersecretary Ricardo Blancaflor winding through the rubble of Hezbollah looking for OFWs to rescue, while bombs fall all around them and bullets zip by their sides. While at this, I'll buy Ermita's proposition if the entire Cabinet, three-fourths of the House of Representatives and their boss in Malacañang—the one who did not win the elections—were shipped off to Lebanon to conduct the operations there. They would truly be carrying out a relief effort: they would be giving monumental relief to their countrymen, at home or abroad.

In fact, until Bichara complained of not getting any money, until Father Advincula asked where the OFW billions were, and until the Senate echoed his cry, all we saw of the relief effort being frantically mounted by these same government officials came in the form of the advice: "Go hitch a ride" and "Pack up and go." You'd think the OFWs who stood to be turned into a permanent feature of the wasted land hadn't thought of it.

A Senate hearing, in fact, is the only guarantee government officials would lift their asses to rescue the people whose toil is rescuing their country. A Senate hearing is the only guarantee the money the OFWs raised with their blood, sweat and tears—they pay a fortune in fees—will go to them in their hour of need and not to Pidal in his hour of greed.

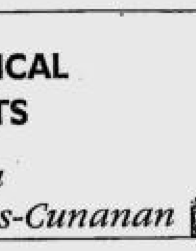
In the end, Executive Secretary Ermita exudes neither confidence nor reasonability, he merely exudes foulness. At the very least that is so because he owes the OFWs an explanation for where their money went. We do know where part of it went: P530 million of it in Medicare funds meant solely for OFWs went to PhilHealth to campaign for GMA in the last elections. That is so notwithstanding PhilHealth's repeated claims they got the checks only after the elections. Francisco Duque's letter to GMA saying that the transfer "will bear significantly on 2004 elections," GMA's executive order transferring the funds, and the DOLE's approval, all done before the elections, supply the motive, opportunity and means for the crime.

Where there's smoke, there's fire. Where there is this theft (there is no other word for it), there will be more. Who cares if Owwa officials recite like a mantra that the OFW billions are intact? Intact for whom? It can't come as a comfort to a depositor that his money is in the bank but he can't touch it—ever. Government officials continue to snub the Senate, and the OFWs may safely assume that their billions have been stolen from them. And rage, rage, against the dying of this light.

At the very most, what is Ermita saying? That Bishop Antonio Tobias is not above the law and may be punished for giving refuge to rebels, but GMA is and may be rewarded for giving sanctuary to rogues and blackguards? Didn't GMA just say in her Sona that the witnesses to today's killings should step forward so that she could stop the runaway mayhem, which is the one thing—and not Cha-cha—that's truly runaway in this country? Surely my dear Madam and Sir, you know that there are witnesses aplenty to some of the most heinous crimes ever committed in this country and that they are hiding behind the curtains of Malacañang or indeed under your beds?

Frankly, I don't know why the citizens, the OFWs at the forefront of them, shouldn't fight back. Malacañang won't account for your money? Then don't pay your fees. I really hope Malacañang would summon me for advocating that. I won't appear.

# 'Delicadeza'



**POLITICAL TIDBITS**

*Belinda Olivares-Cunanan*

YESTERDAY'S NEWSPAPERS REPORTED THE clamor of some big businessmen for Charter change as the only way to infuse into the economy the massive capital Filipinos do not have. Right now, however, with the House of Representatives and the Senate gridlocked over the issue of convening as a constituent assembly, the people's initiative is the only way to amend the Charter. That mode of changing the Charter, however, has been stalled in the second district of Makati. In over 200 legislative districts across the nation, local government officials and NGOs, led by Sigaw ng Bayan, have gathered the number of signatures required by the Constitution. Totaling around 10 million, the signatures have been verified by local Comelec registrars in all the legislative districts, except in Makati's second district, according to Sigaw ng Bayan. There, Mayor Jejomar Binay's henchmen have succeeded in blocking the verification of signatures by making the local registrar report to work for only two hours a week and by allegedly harassing signatories to withdraw, among other tactics.

* * *

**Holding the nation's progress hostage, as Binay and his leaders are doing, is truly sad and deplorable. But it also reveals one side of the people's initiative that is seldom seen. We have seen how the national signature campaign is being stymied by just one district. At this point we have to ask: If the Constitution requires the entire nation to be involved in gathering the signatures for the initiative, should Cha-cha be limited only to passing ordinances or "minor amendments," as those who are against it now argue? As Speaker Jose de Venecia, whom GMA yesterday called in his home province of Pangasinan "my super ally," puts it, "*Bakit natin bubulabugin ang buong bayan para ipasa lang ang isang* ordinance or minor amendment? We have to correctly discern the spirit and not just the letter of the Constitution." I agree. Because of our damaged political institutions, an increasing number of Filipinos now want a parliamentary/unicameral form of government, never mind the classification.**

* * *

The election of former Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin as one of two "independent directors" of the Petron board is understandably controversial. She and Palace officials have tried to keep politics out of it. But it's common knowledge that the Palace closely monitors each and every appointment to a government post, no matter how low. Thus, Boncodin's election to the government's crown jewel (40-percent owned, through the Philippine Nation Oil Company) will be perceived as a lollipop to wean her away from the Hyatt 10 gang.

By her admission, Boncodin was elected to help audit Petron's fiscal position, a job for which she's more than qualified. But the fact that she was "invited" to join the board by its chair, Nicasio Alcantara, who was himself handpicked by the Palace for the position, could never have happened without its approval.

Then, too, Boncodin should not have accepted the post out of *delicadeza* and principle. She was never as vociferous as Dinky Soliman or Ging Deles in attacking GMA, but she certainly allowed them to parade her for credibility at every chance. *Delicadeza* is more valuable than the fat fees board members collect after every meeting, and at least a million-peso bonus at the end of every year.

* * *

**The officials involved in the evacuation of OFWs now realize it's too risky and expensive to send the two small Coast Guard ships to Lebanon. These could be hit or their engines could break down and leave them adrift in the Indian Ocean. The war insurance and documentation alone would be enormous, as Philippine Airlines (which no longer flies the Middle East route but, last month, undertook an OFW evacuation mission out of Damascus) found out. For an airline that is just recovering financially, any accident there would be disastrous. "But if we're needed, we're available, as always," says Rolando Estabillo, PAL vice president for corporation communications.**

**I recall the time when President Fidel Ramos sent a C-130 to Phnom Penh to evacuate the Pinoys (including yours truly) at the height of the coup d'etat launched by Cambodian First Prime Minister Hun Sen in July 1997. From Bangkok, a PAL plane was chartered to bring us to Manila. That was easy enough. But to get our OFWs out of Lebanon, it would be best to contract flights or ships out of Cyprus.**

* * *

We attended the recent 60th anniversary of PAL's historic first crossing of the Pacific, hosted by its chair Lucio Tan. For the first Pacific crossing by an Asian airline, PAL chartered a Douglas DC-4 Skymaster (also known in military service as the C-54). It carried a full load of 40 passengers, all of them American servicemen. PAL featured some documentaries that showed the take off from Nielson (not Nielsen as well call it today) Airport in what was a *talahiban* then (now Makati). The flight had an all-American crew of eight veteran fliers and a solitary Filipina stewardess whom the entire nation now knows, thanks to the INQUIRER (the former Rebecca Versoza, who married her pilot, Capt. Miguel Santos). That historic crossing took 41 hours as it had to make refueling stops in Guam, Wake Island, the Johnston Atoll and Hawaii before reaching its destination, Oakland, California. The flight must have been very uncomfortable with the plane's "military configuration" and bucket seats.

Soon afterwards, PAL launched regular flights between Manila and San Francisco and since then the RP-US route, with Las Vegas now thrown in, has always been its great money-maker.

At the anniversary party, I chatted briefly with PAL president Jimmy Santos who said the airline is doing fine. It has returned to some routes that it closed some years back, such as Beijing, and negotiations are going on for some flight to India. What about Europe? Santos said PAL has orders for more planes and is assessing the profitability of former routes.

# Accidental heroes, reluctant exiles

**HUMAN FACE**

*Ma. Ceres P. Doyo*

THE ARMED CONFLICT GOING ON BETWEEN Israel and the Hezbollah in Lebanon that is forcing thousands of terrified overseas Filipino workers to go home, and the stories and the images one reads, hears and sees are the stuff OFW nightmares are made of.

I couldn't help thinking of the many past crises in that part of the world that OFWs have had to bear. And I thought, if we were to put together the feature stories on OFWs that came out in the INQUIRER, the human interest stories particularly, and the photos too, they would fill several volumes. This has been playing in my head for days now. (By the way, the INQUIRER has a book publishing department.) The stories would form part of our written national history. As they are, they would also be interesting stories—cinematic, dramatic, heartrending, tear-jerking, sad, triumphant. Future generations would certainly look upon these stories with amazement—at how their ancestors survived hardships in hostile lands in order to give their descendants a better life.

I have lost count of the many OFW stories I have written over the years. There was this Filipino domestic helper (DH) in Kuwait who killed her employer (a cruel princess) while they were vacationing in Cairo; another DH lived it up in another royal household somewhere across the desert. Here were husbands and children left behind by the women in their lives, and NGOs helping OFW families stay whole. Recently, I wrote about the Filipinos who work aboard a luxury cruise ship.

Pre-departure areas in international airports abroad, particularly in Europe and the Middle East, where homecoming OFWs gather for their final flight home, are places where one could eavesdrop on or join in OFW conversations. How long have they been away, where did they work, what was it like; who did they leave behind at home and who are meeting them in Manila; what are their *pasalubongs*. The stories are endless.

I suddenly feel uneasy when I am asked where I come from and have to give an honest answer which is so unlike theirs—that I've been away for only a week or so, that I'm a journalist on a work-related trip, or worse, a *turista*. On learning that, some start calling me "Ma'am" but they continue to tell their story.

Recently, I went over past issues of the Sunday INQUIRER magazine where many of the longer features on OFWs had come out. I remember how we put together a whole issue on the OFWs who braved the bombs and suffered hunger, thirst and the desert heat while trying to escape the Gulf War in the 1990s and finding a way to go home to the Philippines.

The stories of and about the OFWs that appeared over the INQUIRER's 20 years have moved on like a progressing plot, so to speak. The allegorical "Every OFW" must be awfully worn out by now, advancing in age, but still slaving away in faraway lands, dreaming of that day when he or she could finally come home, the growing number of dependent grandchildren notwithstanding.

New Year 1995 it was when the INQUIRER announced that the OFW was INQUIRER's Filipino of the Year for 1994. I look at the Jan. 1, 1995 front page right now and the front-page photo of a returning OFW stares at me. There she is, looking straight at the camera, her long hair somewhat disheveled and wearing a branded sweat shirt and denim pants, carrying loads of *pasalubong*—a carton, a bag and several plastic bags. An inside photo has more of the same—a group of sturdy, smiling men with hand-carried stuff, striding out of the airport.

I look at the un-bylined piece (which I, uh, wrote) and I ask, "What is wrong with the title?" The kicker is "1994 Filipino of the Year," and the title is "The overseas contract worker."

Well, we don't call them overseas contract workers (OCWs) anymore. We now call them overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). Frankly, I don't know when, how or why the change happened or who decreed it. One day, we just found ourselves saying OFW. The new three-letter name seemed more all-embracing and therefore included even the so-called highly paid Filipino expats abroad who also have contracts with their employers. OFW cannot refer to OCWs from other countries. It is exclusive to Filipinos. And so it is not the contract, Virginia, it is the Filipino. Or is OFW a euphemism for OCW? Is it more politically correct? What happened to "internationally shared human resources"?

Filipinos have a penchant for re-labeling, as if situations would improve with the change of names. Isn't this what the superstitious do with sickly infants?

"Our citizens to the world," former President Ramos called them. "Modern-day heroes," former President Aquino labeled them thus. A churchman even considered them as "the most potent missionary resource." To many, they are simply dollar-earners. Hounded by poverty and unemployment, these accidental heroes and reluctant exiles have had to leave home for their families' survival.

But their daring is no match to the bombs that have been falling lately. One returning DH said her Lebanese employers refused to let her leave and told her, "You are only a Filipina, you are not an American, no one will mind you." One used bed sheets to escape through the window and then fell to her death. The INQUIRER's banner photo yesterday was that of an OFW on a stretcher. She had jumped out of the window because her employers wouldn't let her go. I know this is un-Christian, but I can't help but snarl at those employers: I hope the rockets find you and blow you to that place where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth.

* * *

*Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph*

# Bastusang Pambansa

**THE LONG VIEW**

*Manuel L. Quezon III*

THE RUFFLED *AMOR PROPIO* OF REP. TEDDY Locsin is more understandable than the preening pride of Mikey Arroyo, but then again Locsin has always taken pains not to be lumped together with colleagues who are uncharitably viewed as half-wits by their more intellectually complete colleagues. Congressmen reportedly on the receiving end of fertilizer funds had been asked to inhibit themselves from participating in the justice committee's impeachment hearings.

Locsin bristled at the idea of being pressured on the basis of a mere allegation—he had, after all, denounced the whole thing on the floor of the House. Fair enough; it was an appeal, after all, made by impeachment proponents. Those who feel unfairly alluded to can always point to Mikey Arroyo, who insisted on participating in the committee hearings with all the immovable enthusiasm of a dung beetle guarding his little ball of turds. *Delicadeza*? How quaint! How obscure! Ask Uncle Iggy.

Not that the stink will last long. In a folksy manner, the avuncular executive secretary and the absent-minded chair of the justice committee assure the country that the surviving impeachment complaint is headed for the scrap heap. Between them, they've come to the conclusion that the process will achieve a happy resolution within six session days. And on the seventh day, having done what bishop emeritus Nicolas Mondejar might characterize as God's work, what happens to the congressmen? Perhaps, the pork barrel checks will be signed?

So for the well-meaning and the opposition-inclined, here's proof positive there will be a third round of impeachment, and a fourth, and a fifth. Every year promises to provide more reasons to raise the issues yet again. To my mind, the latest cause for complaint has just been issued: Memorandum Circular No. 108, which is the same kind of the executive attack dog that Executive Order 464 was, except that it's wearing a different collar. This "Cujo" of an executive issuance snarls, insisting that the Palace will be the judge of whether or not Congress knows what it is doing: if either chamber calls for an inquiry in aid of legislation, good little bureaucrats are supposed to report to their kind uncle, the executive secretary, who will see if, to his mind, the hearing is called for.

Unless the hearing is called by Representatives Rodolfo Antonino, Luis Villafuerte, or Prospero Pichay, there's a fat chance permission will be granted by the Palace. Anyway, why would they want to ask questions? A cozy majority is always allergic to questions. And forget about asserting Congress' oversight function over the executive. Doing that could trigger the executive's maximum oversight over congressmen: the disbursal of funds.

Woodrow Wilson, who knew a thing or two about what congresses do and how government functions, once wrote that, "The informing function of Congress should be preferred even to its legislative function." But that was Wilson and it's a lost cause if you start comparing a dead scholar-president to Antonino, Villafuerte, or Pichay. They'll just point to Mikey Arroyo and smile.

Then again, the glass is better viewed half-full than half-empty. The good thing about seeing the House Committee on Justice at work is that it provides a pretty good approximation of how the parliamentary system, Philippine-style, will work—with the kind of unstoppable, unthinking solidarity of vast herds of buffaloes grazing on the plains, pausing only to poop and procreate.

Committee work will be brisk. Majorities will be solid and strong: it is all a numbers game—now, and in the parliamentary future. Today, the President signs the checks; tomorrow, it will be the same; blessed be the status quo. It wasn't Antonino, Villafuerte, or Pichay plucked out of the House to preside over the Department of Budget and Management, after all. It was Rolando Andaya. Which says something about both the capabilities and trustworthiness of the Palace hatchet men in the House. They belong with Mikey Arroyo but nowhere actually near the cookie jar.

If Antonino, Villafuerte, or Pichay take pride in the immovability of Ms Arroyo, and if the Speaker remains equally immovable in the House, then the future of parliamentary government has been exposed, as obvious as buffalo droppings dotting the plain. The present ruling coalition, coalescing into a permanent ruling party, blessedly free of interference. For ever and ever, Amen. The buffaloes will graze, and the dung beetles will be fruitful and multiply.

Whether the ruling party will continue to be Lakas-CMD, or end up like a cow in the intestinal track of Kampi, the objective's obviously a one-party state, with an opposition as a kind of appendix. But then what's wrong with seeing the future of one-party government? It's what that ruling party is. Ask Representative Locsin who always ends up muttering something about "thieves" when that party is mentioned.

Since that's the way it's going to be, I was particularly delighted by an account provided me by someone at the *Bastusan* complex on Tuesday. As the person and company were lining up to enter the Andaya Hall, they saw Evelyn Kilayko (one of the cheerleaders of the Palace) approach Nini Quezon Avanceña in greeting. Recounted the person who was there, after a very quick acknowledgment, Avanceña's brow furrowed and she said, "What are you so afraid of?"

Kilayko blanched, actually took a step back and answered, "No, we're not!"

Resolutely, Avanceña said, "But you are!"

Kilayko knew she was outdone, and so did her cohorts, because they hurriedly scooted away.

What's to fear, indeed? They have Antonino, Villafuerte and Pichay today, and Miles Roces the new Ernesto Maceda of Manila, for tomorrow. A glorious future!

# Half-empty, half-full

**YOUNG BLOOD**

*Joan P. Habana*

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.*

I LOST SOMETHING VERY VALUABLE FOUR DAYS AGO: my messenger bag. To others it may seem common and a little dirty, but what they say about persons—which is that what matters is what's inside—also applies to bags.

I'm not really a trendy person when it comes to bags. I have three messenger bags for work and a purse when I want to travel light. I choose messenger bags because they're safer especially when I walk on Edsa, unlike backpacks that are, as we say, *nakaw*-friendly. When I go to work, I usually place stuff that don't fit in my bag in a paper or plastic bag. But on that glorious day, I decided I didn't want to look like my usual, Christmas-tree self and stuffed all my things in my precious bag.

But as the day ended, my precious was lost. To be more precise, it was stolen. It was gone in 60 seconds from the table where I had left it. With it went: my one-month old iPod video, P9,000 that was supposed to pay for my credit card bill (half of it wasn't even mine), a tape recorder owned by our company, cassette tapes containing a two-hour interview, my 7-year-old Bible, my notebooks, my cards—yes, I was practically bringing my whole life inside that bag.

So why in the world did I let that bag out of my sight? I'm asking myself the same question. Maybe it was because I came from a meeting, and my mind was bursting with things to do. Maybe I really don't value money or material things that much, until they are gone. Maybe I was just too trusting, too complacent because I was in my own workplace. Or maybe it was a mixture of all three. Still, the fact remains that it's gone, and with it, a lot of things, material and immaterial, that I had clung to.

That night I cried myself to sleep. I woke up late the next morning feeling as if half of my body was gone. I was back to zero balance in my account and zero zest for work. I pulled myself up to fix the damage, get replacement cards, file reports, buy the necessities. I was paying big-time for one minute of carelessness, but for someone who got robbed for the very first time, I was doing quite good. Of course, half of the time I was just staring into space, replaying the "what ifs" in my mind, until the next person who heard what happened asked me, "OK *ka na*?"

"Hello! Of course, not!" my mind wanted to shout. But instead, I replied meekly, "Yeah," trying to make light of the situation and getting watery eyes as a result of laughing at the oddity of it all. I realized that no matter how heartfelt, that's the worst question one could ask someone who just had a tragedy. I am not OK yet. And I am trying so hard to rise from the ashes like a phoenix, reborn, until that question, "OK *ka na*?" again comes up and turns me into ashes.

The comment that offers a glimpse of light is, "It could've been worse." And I have lots of things to be thankful for: Like my family who didn't blame me for what happened and gave me comfort and love. The fact that I still have a job, and at least I can still earn enough to buy all the things I lost (although it would take months...) And thank God, I didn't think of bringing our digital camera that day, because if I did, I don't think my family would be giving me much comfort and love.

The thin ray of light grows stronger by the day, but the reality still remains that I lost some of the things that I valued. I'm the kind of person that says money is just paper, but it doesn't change the fact that it's still money. I lost a lot of things that protected me, and with that wall down, I feel vulnerable.

Among all the things I lost, what I feel most sad about is that I lost my faith in the innate goodness of people. Well, I could say I lost half of that faith. I now believe that some people are inherently good and some are inherently evil. I knew we live in an imperfect world and my job exposed me daily to the "dark side" through the people I met and the stories I heard. But the cliché is true that you really never know, until it happens to you. I am deeply disappointed at the man who stole from me instead of asking, and made my overflowing glass of water half-empty or half-full. I am sad because I don't think I'll ever be able to trust a stranger again, no matter how good he is in reality. That thief's single act of inhumanity lowered my level of optimism and nearly obliterated my idealism.

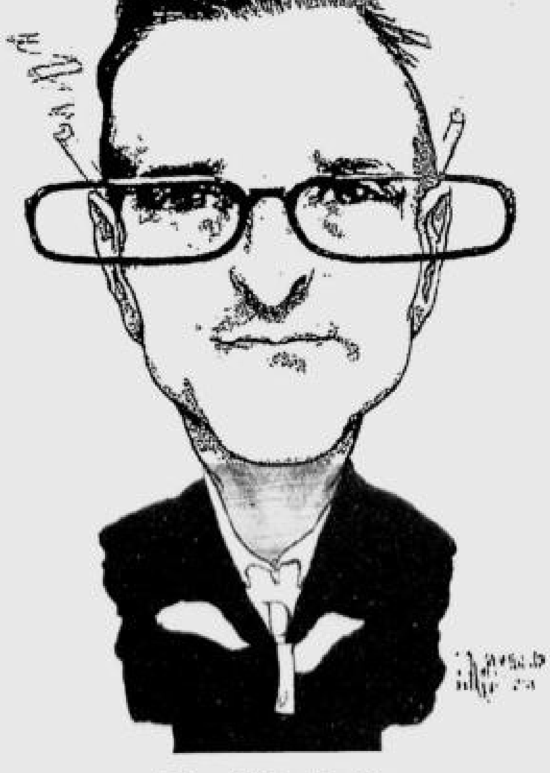
But my house is built on solid rock, not sand. And the glass is not broken, it's still either half-empty or half-full.

*Joan P. Habana, 24, finished AB Communication Arts at the University of the Philippines Los Baños and works as a researcher for a television station.*

**NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:**

*Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.*

**IN THE NEWS**



**David Sedaris**

# Dictatorship is back in RP

I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT HISTORY repeats itself and I also believe now that dictatorship is back in the Philippines.

Innocent people are being arrested left and right without even the prescribed warrants and are being kept incognito, tortured and forced to tell lies. This reminds the citizenry of the MISG (Military Intelligence and Security Group) during the Marcos dictatorship. The abduction and salvaging of innocent civilians (most cases are in rural areas) remind us of the military-sponsored "Monkeys" at the time.

As long as these hellish violations of human rights are allowed to happen in the Philippines, I truly doubt if peace and prosperity would be possible in our country.

Before I end these very sad reminders for my countrymen, I take my hat off to Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim who just proved his patriotism and gallantry as a true soldier of the Filipino people. Let us all salute him and all his comrades in the Armed Forces of the Philippines and in the Philippine National Police who are loyal to God, country and the citizens. To us, they are not traitors but contemporary heroes.

**—JEREMIAS T. SANTIAGO,**
**1431 Reagan's Way,**
**Murrieta City CA 92562**

# Lapses in judgment reflect GMA's poor health

FOR MILLIONS OF COCONUT farmers, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's poor health is reflected in her frequent lapses in judgment and severe amnesia when it comes to the coco levy funds.

In her last Sona, she said, "The coconut farmers deserve a portion of the peace dividend. I invite Congress and the Bishops-Ulama-Priests-Pastors-Farmers-Lumad Conference (BUPPFALUC) led by Archbishop Fernando Capalla to help ensure their rightful shares."

The "peace dividend" is the coco levy funds. In her 2001 Sona, she proudly declared: "*Mas malaki po ang maitutulong ng gobyerno sa mga magsasaka ng niyog oras na maresolba pabor sa magsasaka ang kaso ng* coconut levy. *Kapag nangyari ito, gagamitin ang pondo para sa modernisasyon ng mga niyugan .... Hindi tayo hihinto habang hindi nakikinabang ang magniniyog sa* coco levy funds." The statement did bear fruit when the Supreme Court ruled in December 2001 the coco levy funds to be "prima facie public funds."

When the Sandiganbayan made a favorable decision on the UCPB case regarding the coco levy, she reiterated in her 2003 Sona: "*[N]gayon na naresolba na pabor sa magsasaka ang kaso ng* coco levy .... *Uulitin ko ang sinabi ko noong* 2001, *sisiguruhin ko na makikinabang sa* coco levy *ang maliliit na magniniyog. Hindi ko sila pababayaang madehado.*"

In her 2004 and 2005 Sonas, she started to show signs of amnesia. She made nary a mention of the coco levy issue. It was quite ironic because on May 7, 2004, the Sandiganbayan had ruled that the government owned the coco levy funds in trust for all coconut farmers. And on Dec. 28, 2004, the Sandiganbayan trashed Eduardo Cojuangco's Motions for Reconsideration, saying, "It is high time that the real beneficiaries of the coconut levy funds, the coconut farmers who contributed to (them), and the entire coconut industry be given a chance to reap the benefits that are due them."

But, today, the President calls the coco levy funds "peace dividend." The phrase probably comes from Capalla's "peace initiative" in search of "a moral dimension to an out-of-court settlement" on the coco levy cases. Since 2001, Capalla has been brokering a compromise deal between Cojuangco and a PDSP (Partido Demokratiko-Sosyalista ng Pilipinas)-led coconut farmers group. Several Malacañang personalities have figured in the negotiation which went on even as the courts had ruled on the coco levy cases.

The recent Sona statement on the coconut farmers and the coco levy confirmed that the President is behind the "compromise initiative being peddled by PCGG Chair Camilo Sabio and Capalla. This is why the PCGG is defiant of the Senate and very aggressive in pushing for a compromise even on the cases already won.

INQUIRER's Conrado de Quiros was right in admonishing the public: "Be afraid, be very afraid."

**—JOEY T. FAUSTINO,**
**executive director,**
**Coconut Industry Reform (COIR)**
**Movement Inc.,**
**84 Masikap Ext.,**
**Barangay Central, Diliman, QC**

# Lebanon violence to beget cycles of violence

IT IS TRAGIC THAT ISRAEL REfuses calls from the world community for an immediate ceasefire. The Bush administration is being deceptive by speaking of "an urgent need for a sustainable ceasefire," as a justification for not supporting an immediate ceasefire.

In response to the current humanitarian crisis in the Middle East, the Psychologists for Social Responsibility opposes the grievous and unlawful violations of the human rights of children and their families by all sides in the ongoing violence in Gaza, Israel and Lebanon.

The psychology of war and peace clearly indicates that continued violence in the Middle East is likely to beget new cycles of violence. For these reasons, an immediate ceasefire is a humanitarian necessity. A cessation of violence now will open new options by which all parties to the conflicts can address the underlying problems in more effective, non-violent ways.

We urge the US Congress and President George W. Bush to exert every effort in the United Nations and in every other possible public and private forum to secure an immediate ceasefire participated in by all sides.

**—ROBERT E. GRIFFIN,**
**member, Psychologists for Social**
**Responsibility,**
**100 River St., Forty Fort,**
**PA 18704 USA**

# Soldiers in rescue mission don't deserve statue

THIS IS TO COMMENT ON THE photo of a statue, celebrating the "heroism" of soldiers who were assigned to a rescue mission during the landslide that hit Real, Quezon in November 2004. (PDI, 7/29/06)

Indeed, our soldiers should be commended for helping victims during disasters. But helping our countrymen in times of disasters is a call of duty (not only for soldiers but for each one of us). Thus, it should not be branded as heroic.

What would be heroic is stopping big-time loggers from denuding our forests, and mining companies from destroying the environment—so that disasters of the sort that happened in Real would be prevented.

If soldiers do this, they will be worthy of a monument.

**—JULIE L. PO,**
**Concerned Artists**
**of the Philippines (CAP),**
**39 Scout Bayoran, Quezon City**

# Where stands RP on Suu Kyi's case?

ACCORDING TO THE ASSOCIATed Press, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra has just gone to Burma with a high-level government delegation and urged the ruling military junta to release Aung San Suu Kyi. This is an issue the Burmese generals have always declared as off-limits to their Asian neighbors, insisting that it is an "internal affair." But because not only the Thais but also the Malaysians and Singaporeans have been exerting pressure on Burma, the generals apparently now feel the heat because they are saying they're thinking about releasing Suu Kyi (but, as usual, would not say if or when).

All this makes me wonder why I've never heard President Macapagal-Arroyo speak out, as an act of sisterhood, to press for the release of this courageous Burmese lady who has spent most of the past 17 years in detention, courtesy of the repressive junta that has ruled Burma since 1988.

Suu Kyi's "crime," as the world knows, is having overwhelmingly won, along with her National League for Democracy, the 1990 elections in Burma. Refusing to relinquish power, the generals ever since have made life hell, not just for Suu Kyi and her NLD but also for the Burmese people who have been under military dictatorships since 1962. Like North Korea's vile dictator, the Burmese leaders have stifled their people's longtime wish for freedom.

Is President Arroyo so engrossed in political problems that she cannot speak out on behalf of a democratically elected Asian leader? When she or her foreign secretary attend meetings of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, why don't we hear any word of censure from the Filipino delegation for the Burmese regime which has earned the world's opprobrium? As the first Asian nation to gain independence, how can Filipinos hold their heads up proudly if we ignore an oppressed neighbor?

While Western countries have the power to impose sanctions against brutal regimes, the Philippines, though a poor country, can employ other means, like words of support, to remind ourselves and everyone else that the Filipino nation is part of the freedom-loving human family.

**—ISABEL T. ESCODA,**
**isabelescoda@yahoo.com**

# Israeli attacks unjustifiable

I READ MICHAEL BASILIO'S REaction to a column written by INQUIRER columnist Rina Jimenez-David. (PDI, 7/27/06) I would just like to put his assertions to the acid test of reason.

He said that there is no comparison between the Abu Sayyaf and Hezbollah. True. Hezbollah was formed as an insurgent group to fight the aggressors, the Israeli forces, when they occupied Beirut a few years back. And if Hezbollah continues to enjoy a modicum of respect among the Lebanese, it is because it is involved in reconstruction work.

His second assertion was quite disturbing. Basilio tried to rationalize the Israeli air strikes that have destroyed the tiny state's basic infrastructure. How could he possibly justify Israeli bombs that destroyed a UN peacekeeping office? Did he mean to say that there were Hezbollah rockets hidden in that office? How would he justify the destruction of residential houses that could not possibly house rockets or sacks of rice? Did he mean to say that there were rockets underneath the bridges, airports, etc. that the Israeli bombed?

Basilio's idiotic assertions cannot justify the indiscriminate use of disproportionate force by the Israelis who are clearly the aggressor in this conflict. Clearly—and this the international community agrees—Israel is using force indiscriminately to oppress the people of Lebanon.

Basilio even said that Israelis did a "conscionable" thing. After all, before dropping their bombs, they dropped leaflets. It was like saying that it is all right if, before killing somebody, I first give him a letter, telling him what time and place he'd be killed. Basilio should bear in mind, there is nothing conscionable in murdering human beings.

Lastly, Basilio blamed the Lebanese government for this conflict. He justified this by saying that Hezbollah became part of the Lebanese government, ergo, the entire country should suffer from this. If Basilio reviewed his history, Hezbollah became a part of the Lebanese government through elections or the democratic process, which Basilio's benefactors (the Israelis) did not oppose.

I hope that Basilio should seriously read the facts, watch television and monitor the developments in Lebanon via the Internet, so he would be able to look at the crisis objectively. I say it again—this conflict between the Israelis and the Lebanese should stop. There is nothing humane or laudable in war.

Instead of justifying the illegitimate actions of Israel, the entire international community should convince the Jews to go to the negotiating table and momentarily hold back their war machines from further harming the people of Lebanon.

**—RICHARD RIVERA,**
**rrivera871@yahoo.com.sg**

# DENR explains hand in Narra mining

THIS HAS REFERENCE TO THE NEWS ITEM titled "Permits absent in Narra mining." (PDI, 7/26/06) According to the report, Platinum Group Metals Corp. (PGMC) is operating in Narra, Palawan without a permit. On the other hand, Sara Marie Mining Inc. (SMMI) continues to drill in the same area despite an earlier Cease and Desist Order (CDO) from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Mines and Geosciences Bureau (DENR-MGB).

The report further implied that the DENR has not been fair in enforcing the law against mining firms, particularly in the case of PGMC, which was accused by the Kilusang Laban sa Mina sa Narra of having ties with Environment Secretary Angelo T. Reyes. Our records show that our actions on these companies were based on existing rules and regulations and were not influenced by anyone.

Our regional office issued a CDO against SMMI last July 16, 2006 because it was conducting exploration activities without an Exploration Permit. The CDO is still in effect up to this day.

PGMC, on the other hand, is operating by virtue of the Small-Scale Mining Permit issued by the provincial governor of Palawan. It is thus unfair to drag the name of Secretary Reyes into the controversy involving a permit issued by the local government.

**—HORACIO C. RAMOS,**
**director, Mines and Geosciences**
**Bureau, Department**
**of Environment and Natural**
**Resources, North Avenue,**
**Diliman, Quezon City**

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INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Thursday, August 10, 2006
iDOL ABC
Ang Pinakomogondong Ponget sa Bolot ng Lurol
Betty la más fea
Gabi-gabi simula Aug. 14
ABC
ClickTheCity.com

| Channel | 2:30PM | 3:00PM | 3:30PM | 4:00PM | 4:30PM | 5:00PM | 5:30PM | 6:00PM | 6:30PM | 7:00PM | 7:30PM | 8:00PM | 8:30PM | 9:00PM | 9:30PM | 10:00PM | 10:30PM | 11:00PM | 11:30PM |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ABC 5 | | | | Dream Music Videos | V League | | | | Sentro | Worst Case Scenario | S.O.S | | Wala Yan Sa Lolo Ko | | Big News | Dokyu | | | |
| ABS-CBN 2 | | Kapamilya Cinema | | | Pasion de Amor | Zenki | Yakitate Japan | Calla Lily | TV Patrol World | | Kapamilya Deal Or No Deal | Bituing Walang Ningning | | Sa Piling Mo | My Girl | A Love To Kill | Bandila | SOCO | Mirada De Mujer |
| AXN | | CSI: Miami (Season 4) | | CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5) | | 30 Seconds To Fame | Samsung Sports World | Pensacola (Season III) | | The Amazing Race 7 | | Fear Factor (Season VI) | | The Contender (Season II) | | Supernatural (Season I) | | Hex (Season 2) | |
| Cartoon Network | Pixie & Dixie/ My Little Pony | All New Popeye Show | I am Weasel | Tom & Jerry Show | Baby Looney Tunes | Winx Club | Xiaolin Showdown | Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends | The Simpsons | Samurai Jack/ Sayonara Samurai Jack | PokeMon | Dice | Gundam Seed Destiny/ Shaman King | The Simpsons/ Courage The Cowardly Dog | Teen Titans/ The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy | Justice League Unlimited/ The Simpsons | The Batman/ Aqua Teen Hunger Force/ Sealab 2021 | X-Men Evolution/ Gundam Seed | Static Shock/ Shaman King |
| Cinemax | | | | The World Of Suzie Wong | | | | White Hunter, Black Heart | | | | Friday The 13th Part II | | | Triggermen (9:25 PM) | | | Philadelphia | |
| CNN | | Business International | | World News | World Sport | Larry King Live | | Business International | World Sport | World News Asia | | World News | World Sport | World News Asia | Global Challenges | Your World Today | | | |
| Crime/Suspense | | Law & Order: Criminal Intent | | Law & Order: Special Victims Unit | | Profiler | | Forensic Files | Psychic Detectives | Law & Order | | Law & Order: Special Victims Unit | | Cold Case | | Cold Case | | E-Ring | |
| Disney Channel | Mr. Bean, The Animated Series | Totally Spies | Art Attack/Untalkative Bunny | Suite Life Of Zack And Cody | Lilo & Stitch | Martin Mystery | Totally Spies | Kim Possible | Mr. Bean, The Animated Series | That's So Raven | Wonderful World Of Disney | | | Monster Allergy | Lizzie Mcguire | Buzz on Maggie | Totally Spies | Wonderful World Of Disney | |
| ESPN | | The Senior Open Cships Highlights | | Winter X Games Classic | Winter X-Games X - Day 1 Part 3 | | | X Games 11 Classic - 2006 Champs | | Pool/ Snooker Mosconi Cup 2005 | | Pool/ Snooker Mosconi Cup 2005 | | Sportscenter Asia | The Beautiful Century: 100 Yrs of FIFA | Asian 9-Ball Tour San Miguel | | | Sportscenter Asia |
| ETC | | American Dreams | | Change of Heart | Elimidate | Blind Date | Fifth Wheel | Seinfeld | Ambush Makeover | The Tyra Banks Show | | Will & Grace 4 | Friends 10 | Queer Eye For The Straight Guy | | Entertainment Tonight | The Insider | The Tonight Show With Jay Leno | |
| ETC 2nd Avenue | | Starting Over | | The Maury Povich Show | | The Jerry Springer Show | | Dr. Phil | | NBC Nightly News | The Inside Edition | The Ellen (Degeneres) Show | | Wheel Of Fortune | Jeopardy | Nanny 911 | | NBC Nightly News | The Inside Edition |
| EWTN | Cenacle Of Divine Mercy | Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus | Virtue Storybook | Truth In The Heart | Rosary With Mother Angelica | EWTN Gallery | The Sacraments Through The Ages | Special Programming | | EWTN Live (Encore) With Fr Mitch Pacwa | | Daily Mass | | Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus | The Seven Sacraments | Images of Mary | Behold the Man: Spirituality for Men | The Journey Home Encore | |
| Fox News | | On The Record With Greta Van Susteren | | The O'Reilly Factor | | Your World With Neil Cavuto | | Fox & Friends | | | | | | Fox News Live | | | | | |
| GMA 7 | Agawin Mo Man Ang Lahat | Now and Forever (3:15 PM) | Ang Pagbabago (3:45 PM) | | Saiyuki | Dragonball Z | Jewel In The Palace | 24 Oras | | Captain Barbell (7:10 PM) | | Majika | | I Luv NY (8:50 PM) | Love Of The Condor Heroes | Magpakailanman | | | Saksi |
| Hallmark Channel | | | | Judging Amy | | Sue Thomas F.B. Eye II | | Mcleod's Daughters | | Strong Medicine | | Hustle | | Spooks | | | | Regenesis | |
| HBO | | | Raising Waylon | | | Catch-22 (5:15 PM) | | | | The Beautician And The Beast (7:15 PM) | | | | Deadwood 03: Reconnoitering The Rim | | Deadwood 04: Here Was A Man (9:50 PM) | | Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban | |
| Hero TV | Amdriver | Angelic Layer | Duel Masters | Super Gals | Mirmo de Pon | Sugar The Snow Fairy | Naruto | Inuyasha | Saiyuki Reload | Full Metal Panic | Yakitate Japan | Mr. Ajikko | Transformers Armada | Yu-Gi-Oh GX | BDaman Bakugaiden | Beyblade G-Revolution | Amdriver | Angelic Layer | Naruto |
| IBC 13 | | EZ Shop | | | | Home Shopping Network | IBC Express Balita | Pangarap Kong Jackpot | | EBC Earth Files | | Japan Video Topics/ Arms | | Travel Philippines | Japan Video Topics/ Arms | EBC Earth Files | IBC News Tonite | Home Shopping Network | |
| JackTV | | Experience | | Heat | | X-Men | The Batman | Experience | | Mad TV | | That 70s Show | Just For Laughs | Distraction | Banzai | The Daily Show With Jon Stewart | Premium Blend | The Late Show David Letterman | |
| Lifestyle Network | Get Color | 30 Minute Meals | Wolfgang Puck | Sweet Dreams | Smart Solutions | Sensible Chic | At Home With | Barefoot Contessa | Everyday Italian | Food 911 | Who's Wedding Is It Anyway? | | Good Finds | Martha | | Your Private Island | Genuine Article | E! True Hollywood Story | |
| MTV Philippines | | Punk'D | Laguna Beach | Handpicked Kala | MTV Hits | | | | | Get Spotted | Ultrasound Kyla | TRL | | Punk'D | Laguna Beach | Rex in the City | Sessions Kyla | INXS, Making of Switch | Rockola |
| MYX | | Rock MYX | My MYX | Mellow MYX | Urban MYX | Take 5 | MYX News | MYX Finals | Star MYX | OPM MYX | Pop MYX | MYX Daily Top Ten | | MYX Presents | | MYX Bandarito | My MYX | MYX Backtrax | MYXILOG |
| National Geographic | Wildlife Diary | Nat'l Geographic Specials | | Megastructures | | Naked Science | | Top 5 - Hijack | | WOW Cliffhangers: Girl Power | | About Asia | | Nat'l Geographic Specials | | Megastructures: The Sears Tower | | Naked Science Lightning Strike | |
| NBN | | Teledyaryo Alas-Tres | | Teledyaryo Sports Atbp. | | | Diyos Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila? | Teledyaryo W/ Ray Langit & Angelique Lazo | | Tinig ng Bayan (Live) | | | | Teledyaryo Final Edition | | | | Bantay OCW With Susan K | |
| Net 25 | INC Chronicles | Convergence | Auto Motor Sport | The Planet | Tomorrow Today | Ang Tamang Daan | | News Beat (Live) | | Openline (Live) | Gabay Sa Kalusugan | INC Chronicles E | INC Chronicles F | Ang Pagbubunyag | | World Report | Kapatid Sa Hanapbuhay | DWTV Journal News | Tomorrow Today |
| Nickelodeon | Chalkzone | Hey Arnold! | SpongeBob SquarePants | Rocket Power | Four Eyes | SpongeBob SquarePants/ Right On Top/ Hi 5/ Magical Treasure/ Wayside | My Life As A Teenage Robot | All Grown Up | The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron | The Fairly Odd Parents | Drake & Josh | Unfabulous | Romeo | Naturally Sadie | SpongeBob SquarePants | As Told By Ginger | The Fairly Odd Parents | My Dad The Rock Star | |
| PBO | | | Dyesebel | | | | Sa Akin ang [illegible] | | | | Sarah Geronimo: The Popstar | | | | [illegible] Hanggang Sa Huli | | | | Indecent Professor |
| Qtv | Goodluck | Shaman King | Outlaw Star | Galaxy Angel | MMS (My Music Station) | | | | Phoenix | Irene | Fireworks | Damo | Project 11 | Family Zoo | | News On Q | Women's Desk | | Irene |
| RPN 9 | TV Shopping | | | | Kapatid Show | RPN Aksyon News | | Entertainment Tonight | The Insider | The 4400 | | Medium | | Invasion | | Newswatch Now | Just For Laughs | Kasangga Mo Ang Langit | Police Hour |
| SBN 21 | | | | | | | | Sony Music Video | | | | Oras Ng Himala | | Oras ng Katotohanan | | Friends Again | | Sony Music Video | |
| Solar Sports | | 2006 Jones Cup | | | | WTTC, Lin Ma v Jung Yoo Lee (Finals) | | Boxing: V. Harris vs. S. Johnston | | | | | | World Pool 2006 Masters | | Solar Sports Desk | NBA Access | Indonesia Open WD Finals | |
| Sports Plus | | | | Raceworld | | World Poker Tour Hollywood Home | | | | Nopi Tunervision | Golf Today | World's Greatest Auto Show Miami | | World Game | | Auto Focus | | Raceworld | |
| Star Movies | | | | Money Train (3:55 PM) | | | Chupacabra: Dark Seas | | | Rookie Of The Year (7:15 PM) | | | | The Sweetest Thing | | | The Day After Tomorrow | | |
| Star World | | The Bold & The Beautiful | | General Hospital | | Monk | | The Simpsons | Malcolm In The Middle | Star News Asia | Seinfeld | Rockstar: Supernova | | The Office | Arrested Development | The Drew Carey Show | Less Than Perfect | Seinfeld | Rockstar: Supernova |
| Studio 23 | | | | | | | | Teen Titans | Blog | Wazzup Wazzup | Two And A Half Men | | Joey (8:20 PM) | Grey's Anatomy (9:10 PM) | | News Central | Oprah | | Reality World |

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# Chavit hand seen in Poro port takeover

**By Tonette Orejas**
*Inquirer Central Luzon*
**and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes**
*Inquirer Northern Luzon*

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—ILOCOS SUR Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, a close political ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, is the interested party behind the takeover by the Philippine Ports Authority of the Port of San Fernando in Poro Point, La Union, last week, INQUIRER sources said.

The sources, a former official of the Bases Conversion Development Authority and a Palace official, said the port was the "first thing that (the ally) asked of the President early on her term [in 2001]."

The President, according to the sources, gave direct orders to BCDA chair Narciso Abaya to launch the takeover bid despite a court order stopping the government from doing so.

Former BCDA Chair Rogelio Singson was "booted out" of the agency in February 2002 because he failed to deliver on his promise to get the port from the private bulk handling firm, the Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC), the source said.

## Very handy

Singson, according to the source, found it "very handy" to control the port because of his "importations."

Florencio Padernal, Singson's successor, was given the same assignment but did not succeed.

The source said this was because the Office of the Government Corporate Counsel (OGCC) came out with several opinions advising the BCDA that it had no valid basis to take over the seaport.

The present board, the source said, used a "flimsy reason," which was to cite the lack of an environmental compliance certificate (ECC) by the PPIC from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, as basis for the takeover.

Filodelfo Singson Rojas, chair of the BCDA and president of its subsidiary, the Poro Point Management Corp., is a relative of the governor.

## Singson kin

Several directors at the PPMC are relatives or employees of Singson, who was instrumental in the installation of Ms Arroyo as President in 2001 when he blew the whistle on ex-President Joseph Estrada's alleged corruption.

Rojas and Abaya were "assigned" by the President recently to ensure that the ally got the port, the source said.

"What (Chavit) wants, he gets," the source said to point out how PPIC lost the contract despite a recent OGCC opinion and a temporary restraining order from the court.

The INQUIRER tried to reach Singson for comment. His staffer, Jenny Macatieg, said the governor was on his way to Manila and would issue a statement on the controversy.

Macatieg, however, quoted the governor as saying that the port was taken over because of losses incurred by the PPIC.

The statement on him being behind the takeover of the port, however, has not arrived as of 5 p.m. yesterday.

Abaya, in a phone interview on Wednesday, denied he was acting in the interest of Singson.

## No orders

He said he did not receive instructions from the President about helping Singson gain control of the port. He said he has not met or talked to Singson.

"That's not true. *Walang habilin* (She gave no orders)," Abaya said.

According to Abaya, the issue in this case was the the PPIC's violation of environmental laws.

In San Fernando City, vessels docked at the seaport unloaded their cargo starting Tuesday afternoon after the PPA wrested control over the port.

But Silverio Mangaoang Jr., PPA port manager, said port operations are still far from normal.

The PPIC, which pays the government P50 million a year to operate the port, also tried to send 30 security men and workers to the area but Mangaoang said he was able to talk to them out of their plan. But in the afternoon, PPIC workers again barricaded the piers, he said.

"They are disrupting the smooth operations of the port but we are trying our best to contain the movement," he said.

Rene Venturina, port manager of the PPIC, said the company would exhaust all legal means so it could continue to operate the port.

## Flimsy excuse

"We have a 25-year contract. Just because we lacked the ECC should not be a reason to cancel the contract," Venturina said.

In a statement, the PPIC called on the BCDA and PPMC to respect the temporary restraining order issued by the San Fernando City Regional Trial Court stopping the agencies from a forcible takeover of the port and bulk terminal.

The PPIC issued the call amid what it called an apparent refusal by BCDA and PPMC officials "to restore and maintain the status quo at the seaport facility."

PPIC lawyer Brigido Dulay said it is important for BCDA and PPMC officials "to respect the court order to prevent the further escalation of tension in Poro Point."

"This is a mere business conflict which is now pending in the court," Dulay said in the statement.

"We call on [Abaya] to resort to legal and peaceful means and allow sobriety to guide the resolution of the current standoff at Poro Point," he said.

**SECURITY forces of the PPA scuffle with port workers as the PPA starts to take over port operations at Poro Point allegedly on the request of Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.** CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

# Palace sees no wrong on Singsons in Poro Pt. port

**By Gil Cabacungan Jr..**

MALACAÑANG WILL REVIEW the recent takeover of the Philippine Ports Authority (PPA) of the Poro Point Seaport in San Fernando, La Union amid reports that this move was masterminded by Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

"We will look into that," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita when asked to comment on reports that the PPA, upon the prodding of the Bases Conversion Development Authority, forcibly took over the 80-hectare port and industrial complex from Poro Point Industrial Corp. (PPIC) last Saturday.

The PPIC, which has a live 25-year contract to run the port and the bulk terminal facility and is on schedule with its annual lease payments, is opposing the takeover as illegal because it was based solely on a cease-and-desist order from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The DENR had acted on a complaint by San Fernando Mayor Mary Jane Ortega about the waste discharges from the port in her town's bay area and found out that PPIC had been operating without an environment compliance certificate since 1999.

The PPIC had obtained a temporary restraining order from the San Fernando City Regional Trial Court last Monday but the PPA refused to budge raising concerns of a violent ending to the standoff.

The takeover of the Poro Point seaport was allegedly instigated by Singson through the BCDA and its subsidiary, Poro Point Management Corp. (PPMC), as both agencies are headed by his first cousins and their separate boards filled with other relatives and allies.

Ermita said he was well aware that both BCDA and PPMC had candidates of Singson on their boards but he defended the President's choices. "The appointees of the President are based on their qualifications but this is not without saying that a fellow such as Governor Singson would not have the opportunity to recommend his own people," said Ermita.

Singson himself called the INQUIRER to refute these allegations as he claimed that the BCDA was merely correcting PPIC's "lop-sided" contract forged during the Estrada administration where it was allowed to lease the complex for a minimum of P50 million a year.

The takeover was criticized by some La Union officials.

Ramon Laudencia, San Fernando City councilor, said in a privilege speech at the council that the takeover was a serious transgression and a defiance of the regional trial court of the city.

# 36 houses destroyed in twister

COTABATO CITY—AT LEAST 36 houses were destroyed when a twister descended into the fishing village of Litayen in Bongo Island in Parang, Maguindanao on Tuesday, officials said.

But Parang Vice Mayor Adnan Biruar said no casualty was reported in the aftermath of the tornado.

He said Bongo Island, which is about two nautical miles from the mainland, is vulnerable to strong winds because it faces the open sea in the Moro Gulf.

He said in the past, similar incidents have also occurred on the island.

Biruar said about 200 people fled their homes because of fear and that they were now staying in evacuation centers.

"Our relief efforts are being hampered by huge waves and gloomy weather," Biruar said.

Because of the inclement weather, other areas of Parang were also flooded, according to Biruar.

Similarly, many areas in Central Mindanao continued to experience floods.

Since last week, at least seven people were confirmed killed when waters from a swollen river in Makilala, North Cotabato swept away houses and a car.

The traffic from Davao to Cotabato City was also briefly cut when floodwaters dug up the approach of the Bulatukan bridge, also in Makilala.

"Continuous rains for several days now have also caused the swelling of the Rio Grande de Mindanao and its tributaries," Jim Sampulna, environment director for Central Mindanao said.

Sampulna said low-lying areas of Pigcawayan, Libungan, Midsayap, Pikit and Aleosan, also in North Cotabato, were now submerged in waist-deep water.

Floodwaters, he said, have also submerged rice and corn fields but the actual damage has yet to be ascertained.

Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema has suspended classes in the city yesterday as heavy rains continued to pour. *Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

**WOMEN WARRIORS**
**Bangsamoro women in Indanan, Sulu open their doors to pave the way for military operations against members of the Abu Sayyaf and Indonesian terrorists that are hiding in Sulu province.** JULIE ALIPALA, INQUIRER MINDANAO

# Dumaguete folk launch campaign against crimes

**By Alex Pal and Romy Amarado**
*Inquirer Visayas*

DUMAGUETE CITY—"FIGHT crime, shoot back."

"*Para sa iyo ang laban na 'to.*" (This fight is for you.)

"*Tama na sobra na. Ang krimen ay itigil na.*" (Enough is enough. Stop crime.)

These were just some of the slogans paraded around Dumaguete Tuesday as local government units and students launched a province-wide anti-criminality campaign.

The parade was held amid intermittent showers spawned by typhoons Inday and Juan but the activity proceeded as scheduled, as local chief executives led by Gov. George Arnaiz, Dumaguete Mayor Agustin Perdices and other municipal and city mayors led the mostly student crowd around the city streets.

The parade, which started at the City Hall, ended at the Lamberto Macias Sports and Cultural Center at the capitol area, where a short program was held, followed by the mass destruction of illegal gambling paraphernalia, pornographic DVDs, bladed weapons, and rusty and unserviceable firearms.

Top officials or representatives from the different local government units, the Philippine National Police, academe, business community, labor sector, religious groups, civil society and the media also signed a manifesto indicating their commitment to the campaign.

"It is time to put a halt to this wanton disregard of lives and properties in our city and province … We commit ourselves, our talents and abilities, our resources and energies to wage an effective and sustainable campaign against criminality," said the manifesto.

Arnaiz, in his speech, said the efforts of local officials to aggressively push the province to become a tourist and investment destination would become fruitless because nobody would like to invest or visit a place where the peace and order situation is being disturbed.

The campaign was hatched in a series of closed-door meetings at the provincial capitol, after many sectors in Dumaguete had expressed alarm over the recent spate of unresolved killings in the city, which has been blamed on vigilante groups.

A total of six men, all suspects in various crimes ranging from snatching, holdups to drug pushing, were killed in Dumaguete over the last three weeks in a similar fashion, where killers worked in pairs, used .9 mm pistols and escaped on motorcycles.

These killings were in addition to other killings, one involving the friend of Mayor Perdices last summer, which, until now, is unresolved.

Last week, a robbery claimed the lives of two policemen and resulted in the wounding of three other police officers and a police informant in Barangay Bagtic, Mabinay, a town some 85 km northwest of here.

SPO1 Edmer Ampong Tumapa and SPO1 Edmundo Leong Banong were killed at about 7:30 p.m. of Aug. 1, along with the robber, Aniceto Balensona, a former corporal in the Army, when his hand grenade exploded as the authorities tried to wrestle the explosive from his possession.

Senior Supt. Melvin Ramon Buenafe, provincial director of Negros Oriental, said the crime situation in the province has not reached an alarming level but the anticrime drive was made as a result of the reports in media, which expressed alarm over the unsolved killings.

"The people here are not used to hearing of such crimes and are repulsed at these reports," Buenafe said.

**JOINT EFFORT**
Residents of Barangay Pantal, Dagupan City join hands as they go to the site that President Macapagal-Arroyo would visit to lead groundbreaking ceremonies for the Urgent Bridges Construction Project for Rural Development Contract Package III. The 380-meter long Pantal Bridge is just one of 64 bridges to be constructed under the program that would be under the funding assistance of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation.

# Aid in peril due to terror tag on group

COTABATO CITY—A RANKING official of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and a militant leader said the US terror tag on the International Islamic Relief Organization (IIRO) was driving away vital aid for Muslims in Mindanao.

Earlier, Matthew Lussenhop, US Embassy spokesperson in Manila, said his government found that IIRO facilitated fundraising for the al-Qaida and its affiliated terror groups.

IIRO was established in 1978 "as a humanitarian nongovernmental organization to provide assistance to victims of natural disasters and wars all over the world."

"IIRO was also created after it was discovered that 80 percent of refugees and victims were Muslims" according to information culled from the Internet and available local programs description.

It says, "The major part of IIRO's financial contributions comes from private donations in Saudi Arabia. An endowment fund (Sanabil Al-Khair) has been established to generate a stable income to finance its various activities."

With headquarters in Jeddah, IIRO is structured into various departments according to sector needs: the Department of Urgent Relief & Refugees; the Department of Health Care; the Department of Orphans & Social Welfare; the Department of Education; the Department of Agricultural Affairs; the Department of Architectural & Engineering Consultancy, and the Our Children Project.

Its Philippine operations were headed by Mohammad Jamal Khalifa, a brother-in-law of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

But Muslimin Sema, MNLF secretary general, said the allegations should be investigated further and that concrete evidence should be presented on the claims that the IIRO was the funding arm of al-Qaida.

"The investigation is always necessary for everything. Any reports of suspicious activities should be investigated as fair as possible. But while we do that, we should be careful also. We might be driving away an organization that could be doing some good to our people," Sema, also mayor of this city, said.

Sema said the United States always makes allegations which could not be supported by facts. He cited the reason given by Washington for invading Iraq.

"The United States announced that Iraq maintains weapons of mass destruction and this city was a doormat of Jemaah Islamiyah militants but these were not proven," he said.

Sema said he knew that the IIRO helps Muslims in Mindanao but "this is the first time I heard that the IIRO was involved in terror activities."

Amirah Lidasan, chair of the Suara Bangsamoro party-list group in Mindanao, said the IIRO was not a conduit for terror funds because it spends its money on worthwhile projects in Mindanao. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Inquirer Mindanao*

# Cebu school for the deaf to get computer lab

**By Irene R. Sino Cruz**
*Inquirer Visayas*

CEBU CITY—THE STUDENTS OF a public high school for the hearing impaired will soon acquire computer skills with the setting up of a computer laboratory in their school.

The computer laboratory for the First High School for the Hearing Impaired, a Department of Education-run school in Barangay Basak here, is a project of the executives and staff of the Ayala group of companies and implemented through the Ayala Business Club Cebu (ABCC).

The Ayala Business Club was organized to promote cooperation among the senior executives of Ayala companies in areas where they operate. It undertakes projects for the development of neighboring communities, providing support in education, environment and other projects.

The project calls for a donation of 10 new personal computers, one-year free Internet connectivity through Innove Communications, teachers' training and Internet literacy for the students.

"The major goal for this support is to help the students gain information technology (IT) literacy in practical arts and prepare them for employment. While it is a serious challenge for the hearing impaired students to gain the benefits of IT education, Ayala Business Club further aims to provide opportunities for the disadvantaged high school students," ABCC president Karl Hudson said.

Having skills in the use of computer and the Internet will provide an opportunity for the students to have a better future, Hudson said.

In addition to the donation, he said, ABCC members have pledged to sustain the project through support mentoring programs and activities to get other stakeholders to support the school for its other needs to increase sustainability.

The setting up of a computer laboratory is under the Gearing-up Internet Literacy and Access for Students (Gilas) program and requires an investment of P300,000.

Hudson noted that the ABCC would continue to assist other organizations focused on children by tapping its workforce to support the campaigns of the Children's Hour.

"In the most recent fiscal year, Ayala companies in Cebu generated about P200,000. This, in turn, went to the various partner-organizations, mostly supporting children in conflict with the law and children in dysfunctional homes," he said.

Aside from Gilas and Children's Hour, ABCC is also championing the Habitat for Humanity in Metro Cebu. It has raised funds to help build houses in San Pio Village, Talisay City.

The ABCC project in the village also includes another component—that of providing the children of scavengers, who are the beneficiaries of the housing project, feeding and medical assistance for the school year 2006-2007.

Teresita Villacorta, associate director of the Ayala Corp., said the Ayala group is focusing its corporate social responsibility on three main areas—education, environment and entrepreneurship.

# 3 draw life terms for mayor's murder

**By Cristina Arzadon**
*Inquirer Northern Luzon*

LAOAG CITY—A JUDGE HERE on Monday sentenced to two life terms two brothers and their companion for the murder of Vintar Mayor Eleuterio Mabanag and his police escort in 2004.

Brothers Erwin and Rodrigo Gaor and Sonny Flores, a market vendor, were also sentenced from 12 to 20 years in jail for the wounding of Mabanag's security aide, Rogelio de Leon.

Judge Charles Aguilar of the regional trial court here ordered the accused, who were present during the promulgation, to pay the victims' families almost P4 million in damages.

Public Prosecutor Rosemarie Ramos relied heavily on the testimony of De Leon, who survived the 2004 ambush.

Mabanag was jogging with De Leon and another escort, SPO1 Nestor de San Juan, in Barangay Margaay in Vintar on Oct. 30, 2004 when the accused staged the ambush.

The killings were widely suspected then to be politically motivated as these occurred after the 2004 elections.

Aguilar issued the decision in a tension-filled court on Monday with the families of both the accused and the victims present.

On the request of both parties, the decision was read in open court.

But barely more than an hour into the promulgation, Erwin Gaor threw a mineral water bottle at De Leon, hitting the latter on the face. This caused a brief commotion inside the packed courtroom.

Gaor pointed at De Leon and shouted in Ilocano: "Liar. You are also a liar, judge."

Aguilar was immediately escorted inside his chamber fearing that the accused would harm him. Policemen immediately escorted the three accused outside the courtroom.

Aguilar reappeared from his chamber later and ordered a court staff member to complete reading the decision.

"By twist of strength and courage, De Leon miraculously survived to tell the harrowing gun slay... that the accused committed," Aguilar said in the decision.

Court records showed that De Leon was hit in the belly, causing his stomach to rupture and his internal organs to stick out, but he was able to run away from the ambush site.

The court noted the cruelty and treachery that attended the murders when Mabanag and his police escort were riddled with bullets after they fell into a canal during the first round of gunfire.

# Infant formula seen cause of high baby mortality

ILLUSTRATION ANTHONY MISTADES

DAVAO CITY—THE WORLD Health Organization (WHO) has ranked the Philippines sixth among countries with high incidence of infant mortality.

Alex Eillamo, WHO consultant, said based on a study conducted by the WHO, there are about 16,000 infants dying in the Philippines each year.

And among the most unlikely culprits is infant formula.

Eillamo said infant formula is the leading cause of diarrhea among children. Acute diarrhea could kill an infant in about a day or two.

### 16,000 deaths a year

He said about 80 percent of Filipino mothers feed their babies with infant formula, which explains why there is a significant number of deaths attributed to commercially available milk.

"Because of the practice, there are least 16,000 infants dying each year that can be traced to formula feeding," Eillamo said.

What was worst, Eillamo claimed, is that many infant formula are actually classified as "potentially life threatening."

"Some of the infant formula are not sterile product," he said.

Eillamo said that infant formula-induced illnesses claim the lives of at least one million children worldwide or about 13 percent of the 10.6 million infant deaths being recorded each year.

He said because of this, health ministers from 35 countries have undertaken moves to ban advertisements aimed at drumming up patronage for infant formula.

He said the WHO has also embarked on a vigorous campaign to promote conventional breastfeeding.

But Dr. Paulyn Jean Ubial, health chief for Southern Mindanao, said the campaign could prove to be tough.

She said that while the government spends about P9.5 billion for various health programs, milk manufacturing companies spend an estimated $21 billion for product promotion alone. *Dennis Jay C. Santos, Inquirer Mindanao*

# Loren says she feels no rancor on adopted daughter brouhaha

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—FORMER Sen. Loren Legarda said she felt "no rancor" and vowed "not to be vindictive" toward the Kapampangan people even as the provincial board on Monday took back her "honorary Kapampangan" status.

The resolution's withdrawal was prompted by remarks she made last week about alleged election cheating in Pampanga in 2004 to favor her rival, Vice President Noli de Castro.

In a phone interview, Legarda said it was not the people of Pampanga but "Malacañang and [the administration party Lakas] guards" that exerted "extreme political pressures" on board members.

She said the actions of "Malacañang operatives" in the 2004 elections and on the board caused her to be "cheated twice."

She said she was not embarrassed by the board's decision because in the first place, she did not solicit the award.

"They can get the plaque back. What is important to me was the warm welcome I received from the Kapampangan. That's the most important moment," she said.

In Monday's regular session, the board went on recess five times before voting 10-1 on Resolution No. 537 that withdrew Resolution No. 468 adopting Legarda as a daughter of Pampanga.

It was in recognition of the P300 million worth of projects put up through her countryside development fund when she was senator.

Before voting, the board, presided over by Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao, heard the objection of Board Member Aurelio Tolentino, Legarda's ally.

It also tackled three motions seeking to revise the "harsh language" of the privilege speech and the resolution sponsored by Board Member Wardy Chu who represents the home district of President Macapagal-Arroyo and her son, Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo.

They agreed to strike out from Chu's speech the phrases "irresponsible, malicious, unstatesmanlike statements [by Legarda]" and "grossly maligned."

They retained this part of the resolution, though: "Whereas, prior to [Aug. 7], without the knowledge of the provincial board, the awarding body, (Legarda) had a press conference where she made adverse and damaging pronouncements against the Kapampangan particularly casting doubts on the results of the 2004 elections which she claimed she was cheated in Pampanga and this forthcoming award of which she was earlier informed, was her 'greatest vindication.'"

According to a transcript obtained by the INQUIRER, that part of the press conference showed a local reporter seeking Legarda's reaction to the statement that De Castro "won in Pampanga but ironically you are being declared as adopted daughter of Pampanga."

Legarda's reply went: "For me that is the greatest vindication and that is the most heartwarming welcome of the Kapampangan to me."

Before this part in the interview, she said she found it "impossible" that De Castro won over her by almost 500,000 votes in Pampanga.

**LEGARDA**

The official canvass obtained by the INQUIRER from the Commission on Elections showed that Legarda garnered 179,725 votes while De Castro took in 572,448 votes. Namfrel's count showed her with 175,834 votes and De Castro with 556,847 votes.

Nothing in the transcripts showed her to be blaming the Kapampangan for the supposed poll cheating.

Chu and his nine colleagues denied getting or succumbing to pressures.

However, two of them confirmed that three Lakas mayors, an adviser of a Cabinet secretary and a businessman close to Ms Arroyo met them in Clark on Thursday.

The sources said they were asked to consider withdrawing the resolution because the adoption of Legarda, who ran with the opposition, shattered the "Solid Pampanga" they envisioned. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano
INQUIRER Southern Luzon

# A hundred proverbs reflect Bicol's culture

**By Juan Escandor Jr.**
*Naga City*

WHAT MAKES THE NEWLY published "Balalong" unique is that it attempts to chronicle Bicol culture through proverbs.

*Balalong* (stress on the second syllable) is a precolonial period instrument made of bamboo that is beaten by a stick and used by chieftains to summon the villagers. It is apt for the title of the 118-page book, if only to make it known that Bicol has its own set of proverbs that reveals strands of its cultural fabric.

The collection represents spoken Bicol in Naga City and most parts of Camarines Sur.

## Witty

Sometimes witty and humorous, and at other times profound, the proverbs that author Fr. Philip Francis Reazon Bersabe compiled and classified provide windows to the wisdom and values of a section of Bicolanos through generations.

Classified into four categories—moral, psychological, religious and secular—the book tries to unravel the deeper meaning of each proverb as observed in daily life.

Explained and illustrated, the collection of 100 Bicol proverbs, like in any other cultures worldwide, expresses the perception of ideas and ideals that matter to people based on the norms and tradition in the localities.

In local color, Bersabe takes the reader to the ethnicity of the Bicolanos with the influence of religion, life cycle, and environment on the backdrop.

For example, "*Kun sa lubang ka mahayop, puling an saimong madadakop*" (Blow into the mortar, and the dust will get into your eyes) conveys wisdom in simple terms.

Some proverbs are informal and hilarious reflecting a contemporary outlook. "*An tawong matorognon, naagawan nin agom* (A sleeping husband loses his wife)" and "*An babaeng mainikid-ikid, sa pungo nasasabit* (A flirtatious woman gets caught in the protruding branch)."

Bersabe has more of this kind of proverbs that include Bicol's version of machismo that, he says, originated from Caramoan, Camarines Sur. "*An lugad nin lalaki, tinatahi nin nawi* (The wound of a man is sutured by a large strand)."

## Imagery

"Balalong" shows images that portray Bicolano values and wisdom. Its author has achieved a work in the body of Bicol literature and adds to the growing list that seeks to define the Bicolano identity.

But Bersabe, being a priest, tends to frame his discussion with biblical passages, which could narrow the readers' appreciation of the entries.

It is not remote that several of these proverbs evolved from precolonial times when animism was the dominant worldview of the natives. Framing them from a Christian viewpoint alters their original context.

For example, in the proverb "*An harayo sa gatong, dai matotong* (One who is far from the burning wood will not get burned)," Bersabe explained this to mean that a person must avoid trouble by distancing oneself from quarrels, dissensions, misunderstanding and trouble.

But he concluded that this "may positively refer to a person who runs away from the love of God and needs to be closer to Him again, to get burned by His love."

Although the book tries to provide a historical context to some of the proverbs, much work is needed to find their original meanings.

Language research can deconstruct the original meaning of the proverbs. Only thus can Bersabe unleash the universal meanings of the proverbs he has compiled.

But the compilation must be appreciated for the author's intention of documenting them before they are totally forgotten.

Bersabe has earned two summa cum laude honors, in 2000 when he finished his Bachelor in Sacred Theology and in 2002 when he obtained his Licentiate Masteral in Sacred Theology at the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Sacred Theology and Graduate School, respectively.

"Balalong" came out from Goldprint Publishing House in Naga City only in June.

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Regrettably, the Senate has substituted ***publicity*** for ***efficiency***.

Even an illustrious member of the chamber has spoken up to bemoan this deviation from the Senate's constitutional obligation.

The Senate "has started to lose its purpose," **Senator Edgardo J. Angara laments**. Without serious lawmaking to benefit the Filipino people, the Senate is "of no use as a legislative institution."

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# 'Workaholic yes; alcoholic no'

**By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.**

SHE MIGHT BE A WORKAHOLIC but she ain't no alcoholic.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita vigorously denied speculation that President Macapagal-Arroyo's poor health has been due to her intake of alcohol.

"They are saying she drinks cognac a lot that's why she got sick. But I don't think it's true. It's good as news but it's not true," said Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita in a briefing.

The President's two unplanned hospital visits in one month due to diarrhea and the flu had led opposition lawmakers to demand that Malacañang make a full accounting of the chief executive's true state of health.

A Malacañang source said that the President was found by her doctors to have a fatty liver but this was largely due to obesity rather than high alcohol intake. This was the reason why the doctors have ordered her to cut down on her weight.

Ermita revealed that cognac was indeed one of the drinks served during Cabinet meetings but he insisted the President never took a shot. "If ever I take cognac, that's good for the health because it helps in digestion. Most Europeans drink it but it doesn't follow the President is also doing it," Ermita said.

Ermita declared that the "President is healthy and strong enough to be able to move around again," after more that a week of rest.

"She has really fully recovered, she can do her normal things. She's up and about and she is able to do her chore as usual because things have to be done especially in the provinces. If you were in her shoes, after being sick for two days and taking a rest for one week, isn't it about time to move around otherwise you'll get sick more if you lie down in bed longer?" Ermita said.

**AMBASSADOR WILLY GAA:** Career officer in prime diplomatic post FILE HANDOUT PHOTO

# GMA names career officer envoy to US

**By Christine O. Avendaño**

A CAREER DIPLOMAT IS PRESIDENT MACApagal-Arroyo's choice as ambassador to the much-coveted and top diplomatic post in Washington DC.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday announced that Ambassador Willy Gaa, the current Charge d'Affaires in Washington, is the new ambassador to the United States. He becomes the first career diplomat to be appointed ambassador to the US since Raul Rabe, who occupied the post for six years until 1999.

Gaa succeeds Albert del Rosario, a political appointee, who has resigned to return to the private sector.

Ermita was all praises for the 60-year-old Gaa, whom he described as "hardworking and very competent." He said he first met Gaa when he was a consul in the Philippine Embassy in Triploi, Libya.

The executive secretary said the appointment of a career diplomat to Washington would make a lot of people in the Department of Foreign Affairs happy.

Asked if Gaa's being a career diplomat was one of the considerations for his appointment, Ermita said that Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo "has been fighting all along for a career official to be appointed to important posts."

But some senior DFA officials were surprised by President Arroyo's choice. One of them said that while Gaa was a good ambassador, the government had always made it a point to send "people with stature to important posts like the US."

## People with stature

The DFA official pointed out the fact that current occupants of top diplomatic posts were people of stature and cited as example former Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon Jr., (Tokyo) and former Finance Secretary Eduardo Espiritú (London).

"At a time when we need to mend fences with people in Washington, why send an ordinary ambassador there?" said the senior DFA official, who asked not to be named.

The same DFA official said Washington was a unique posting that requires the ambassador to "entertain a lot to be effective" and "to open doors" for the country.

The official said President Arroyo may have her reasons for appointing Gaa to the top post. It had been earlier reported that Romulo was being eyed to replace Del Rosario.

Before Del Rosario, former Sen. Ernesto Maceda, a political appointee, was the ambassador to the US during administration of Joseph Estrada. Maceda replaced Rabe, the last career officer to serve as ambassador to the US. Rabe served from 1993 to 1999. The first post-Marcos ambassador to the US was the late Emmanuel Pelaez, the former vice president who was appointed by then President Corazon Aquino in 1986 and stayed for six years.

Prior to his appointment as ambassador, Gaa was charge d'affaires in Washington since July 25 this year and held the concurrent position of consul general to Los Angeles.

Previously, Gaa was ambassador to China (2003-2006), Australia (2002-2003), consul general in New York (1997-1999), minister counsellor and consul general in Libya (1991-1992), consul general in New York (1981-1985) and vice consul and consul in San Francisco (1975-1980).

Also yesterday, Ermita announced the appointment of Nestor Mantaring as the director of the National Bureau of Investigation. President Arroyo also appointed Rex Bernardo Pascual and Sarah Jane Fernandez as assistant solicitors general.

Alexander Padilla was named undersecretary of the Department of Health.

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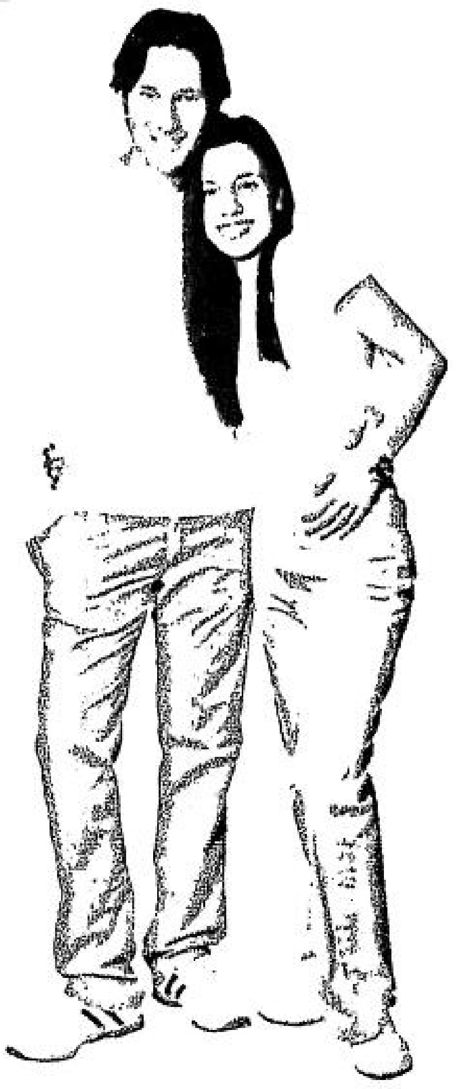

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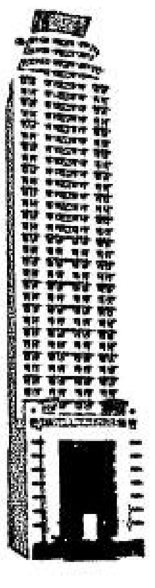

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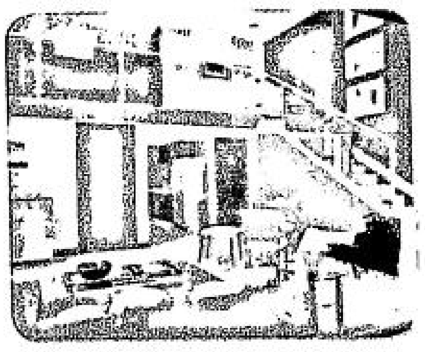

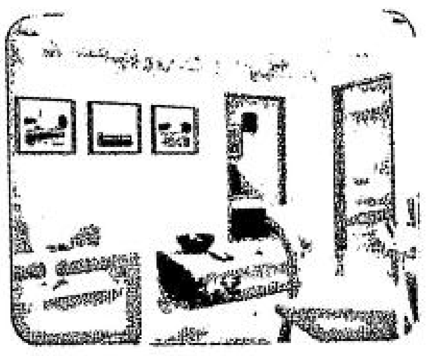

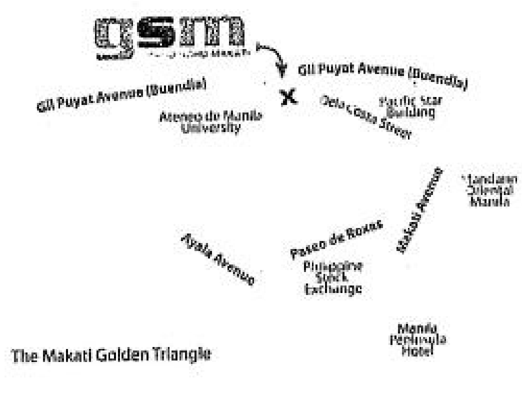

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## UNDER BI'S WATCH SINCE LAST YEAR

# Roldan put on hold-departure list

ROLDAN

WANG

INQUIRER PHOTOS

**By Leila B. Salaverria**

AMID CONTINUED PROTESTS AGAINST suspect Dennis Roldan's temporary liberty, the former actor and congressman has been included in the Bureau of Immigration's hold-departure list on orders of the Department of Justice.

Roldan, whose real name is Mitchell Gumabao, was included in the hold-departure list on Aug. 3 following a July 31 directive of DOJ Secretary Raul Gonzalez. The actor is accused of masterminding the abduction of a 3-year-old Chinese-Filipino boy last year, along with another suspect, Suzette Wang, who remains at large. BI Associate Commissioner Jose Cabochan signed the order on behalf of Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. Roldan has been on the BI's watch list since his arrest last year.

People on the list are not necessarily barred from leaving, but their attempts to leave are reported to the BI and they may or may not be allowed to do so. But those on the hold-departure list are barred from leaving. The victim's family had expressed fears that Roldan would leave the country, but the former congressman assured the court he would not flee.

Kidnapping is a nonbailable offense, but last month, Roldan was granted a P500,000 bail by Pasig City Judge Agnes Reyes-Carpio who said there was no strong evidence to prove the former actor's guilt. The DOJ protested the decision and asked Carpio to inhibit herself from the case.

Roger Yu, the victim's father, said Roldan could perhaps convince Wang to surface. "If Roldan is really innocent, he should be able to get Wang to come back here and face the charges," he said. *With Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

**WHAT'S INSIDE**

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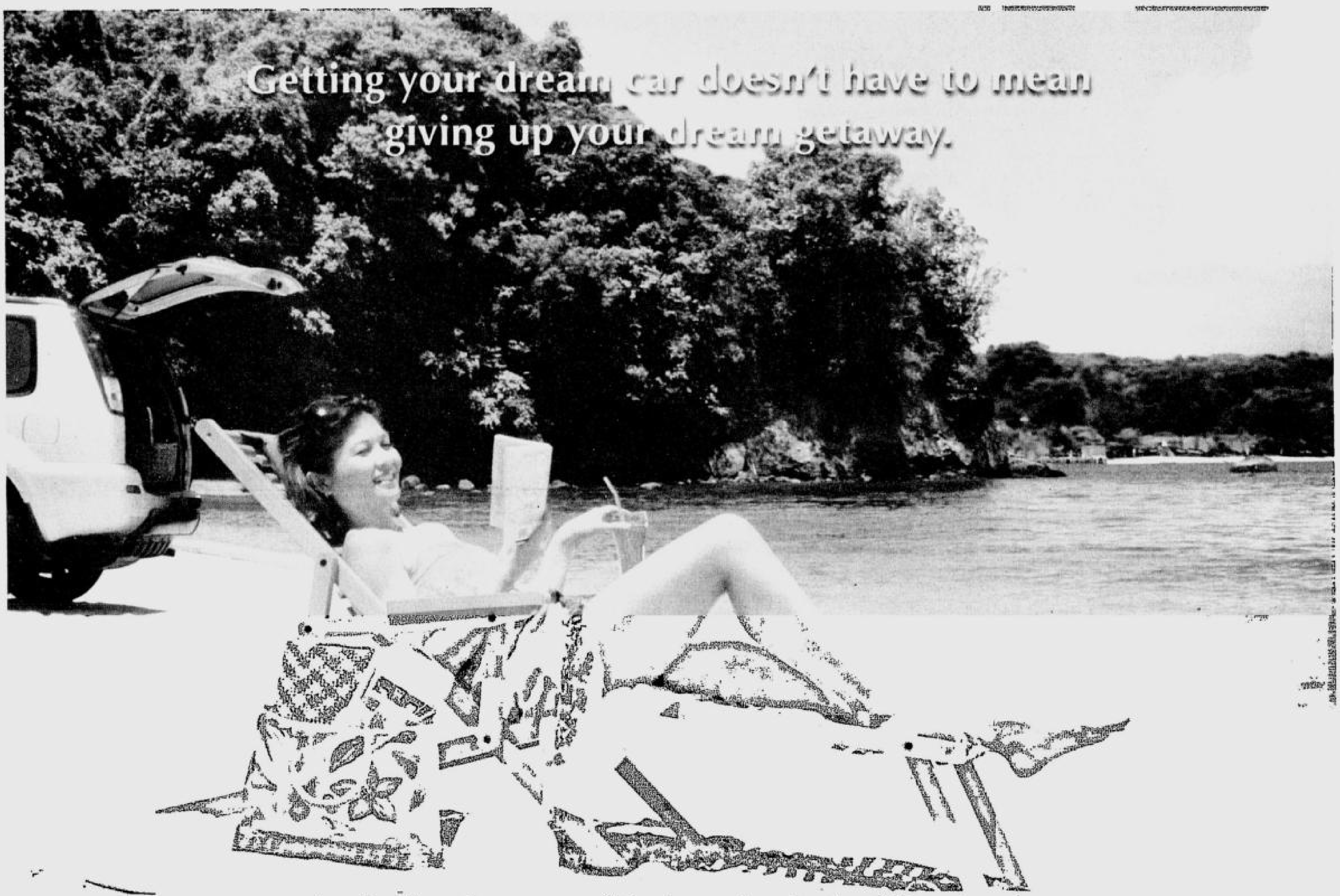
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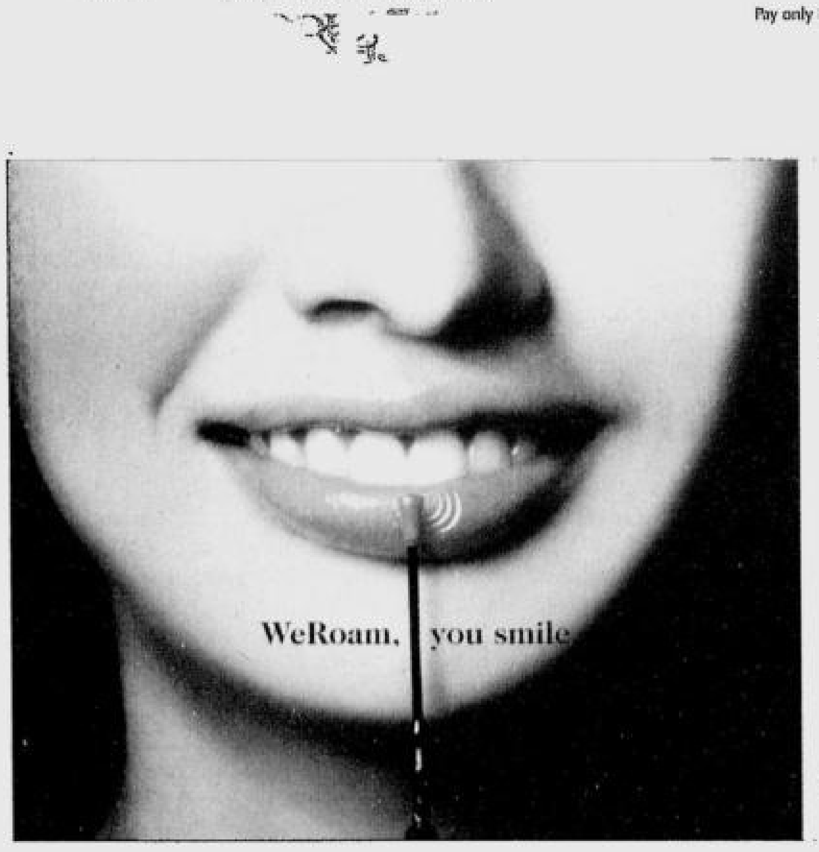

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## METROBRIEFS

### Co-ed found dead

AUTHORITIES have taken into custody the alleged boyfriend of a 4th year college student who was found dead with multiple stab wounds inside her Caloocan City home Tuesday morning. Chief Insp. Jose Valencia identified the victim as Roselyn Cabanilla, an education student of Holy Rosary College in Barrio Concepcion, Tala. Dennis Habana 22, a student of the same school, and the victim's alleged boyfriend, had called up the police to report that he found Cabanilla dead in their home, a police report said. "Except for the boyfriend, no one was seen entering the house before and after the incident," police said.

*Nancy C. Carvajal*

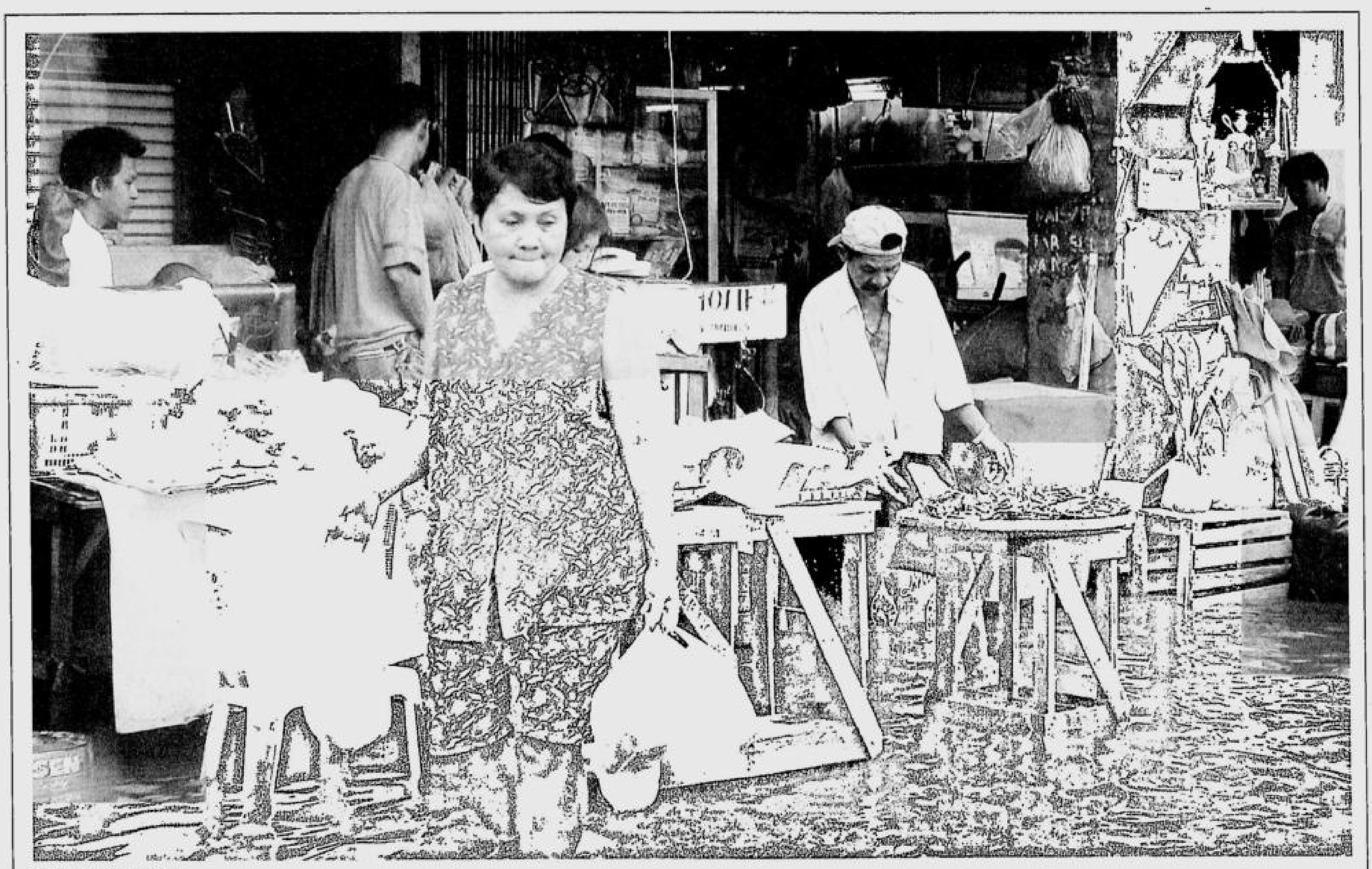
### Deadly chase

TWO MEN on a black motorcycle were shot dead when they allegedly sped past a police checkpoint and engaged responding law enforcers in a shootout early yesterday in Antipolo City. Patrolling policemen in Barangay Mayamot allegedly chanced upon the two men on a black Kawasaki 125 motorcycle without a license plate and without head lights about 5 a.m. at the Masinag Intersection. The policemen got suspicious and flagged down the two men, but the duo allegedly sped off. Policemen engaged the two men in a gunfight after the pair allegedly fired at a police car, hitting the vehicle twice. Police claimed they recovered a .38-caliber revolver, ammunition and and a fragmentation grenade from the pair.

*Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

### Meteor shower

STARGAZERS are invited to mark Aug. 12-13 on their calendar, with the Perseids meteor shower putting up a celestial show. The Seven Suites Hotel Observatory (Sumulong Highway, Antipolo City) is an ideal place to watch the show, according to Ramon Acevedo, the hotel's in-house astronomer. Acevedo will provide interesting "galactic" trivia during the event. Seven Suites, located across from the Valley Golf Country Club, is perched on a hill and overlooks the metropolis. For inquiries, call 682-0330 or 682-2076.



**WET MARKET**
Housewives on their way to market in Manila's Quiapo district have to contend with flooded streets caused by frequent downpours in the metropolis.

ERIK ARAZAS

# Two suspected car thieves arrested

By DJ Yap

TWO SUSPECTED MEMBERS OF a car theft syndicate were arrested and four stolen cars were recovered yesterday by the Quezon City police.

The city police's District Intelligence and Investigation Division (DIID) said that with the arrests, they neutralized a syndicate that preyed on car rental shops.

The suspects were captured in an entrapment operation Tuesday night.

They were identified as Ronnie Javier, 33, a car body builder and painter, and Fernando Alejandrino, 33, a laborer.

DIID chief Supt. Roger James Brillantes said the group had victimized about 30 people who lost at least 63 vehicles to car thieves.

He said the group's modus operandi was to rent vehicles and then to demand money for the return.

Seeking the help of the DIID, Ana Maria Bautista told police that the suspects rented her Toyota Altis with plate number ZBS-732 on Aug. 7, but did not return it.

Later, the two contacted the victim and demanded P75,000 in exchange for the car's return, Brillantes said in a report.

DIID agents, in cooperation with the anticar theft unit, planned the entrapment of the suspects at a parking lot at the corner of E. Rodriguez Jr. Boulevard and Greenmeadows.

Recovered during the arrest of the suspects were the Altis, as well as a Toyota Camry with plate number WGK-188, which the two used.

Separate follow-up operations resulted in the recovery of two more allegedly stolen cars, another Altis and a Mitsubishi Lancer, in Bulacan province and Quezon City.

# No classes because of meningo scare

SOME 5,000 GRADE SCHOOL and high school students of New Era University in Quezon City were sent home yesterday following reports that a pupil died of meningococcemia.

Classes were suspended to clean the campus and prevent the possible spread of the dreaded disease, school officials said.

A pupil, Rhadmer Rellegue, 11, died Tuesday afternoon at San Lazaro Hospital in Manila. A staff member at the records office of the hospital had confirmed he died of meningococcemia.

The bacterial disease is usually transmitted like a cold through respiratory droplets.

Brother Jose Ventilacion, a school administrator, said classes would resume today. The Quezon City health department advised them there was no need to suspend operations, as the disease was not airborne.

Ventilacion added that school officials were monitoring Rellegue's classmates and other students. He advised parents of the students to bring their children to a doctor when they show signs of being sick.

Ventilacion said the school was coordinating with the DOH in preventing the spread of the disease.

*DJ Yap*

# *Mantaring is new NBI chief*

By Tina G. Santos

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INvestigation (NBI) now has a new head.

NBI acting director Nestor Mantaring formally assumed the agency's top post as he took his oath before Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday morning.

But Mantaring, a lawyer by profession, said an oath-taking ceremony before President Macapagal-Arroyo, who signed his appointment papers on July 27, would take place soon.

"We still have to request for a schedule for the oath-taking in Malacañang. It depends on the availability of the President," he told reporters. "But at least now, I can start assuming the position. I am honored by my appointment."

Mantaring was named by Malacañang as NBI's acting chief last May. He had served as the agency's officer in charge following the death of former NBI chief Reynaldo Wycoco in December last year.

The newly-appointed NBI director became a controversial figure after some NBI agents, led by then Deputy Director for Intelligence Edmund Arugay, threatened to withdraw their support for him last June for "poor performance and dictatorial style of administration."

Mantaring, however, said the group's protest could have stemmed from a special order he issued about the reassignment of a regional director and four deputy directors, including Arugay.

The following day, however, Arugay's group smoked the "peace pipe" after everything was settled amicably. The NBI "fight" apparently irked Malacañang who told the officials not to wash their dirty linen in public.

Mantaring said there would be no changes in the NBI personnel now that he is holding the bureau's top post.

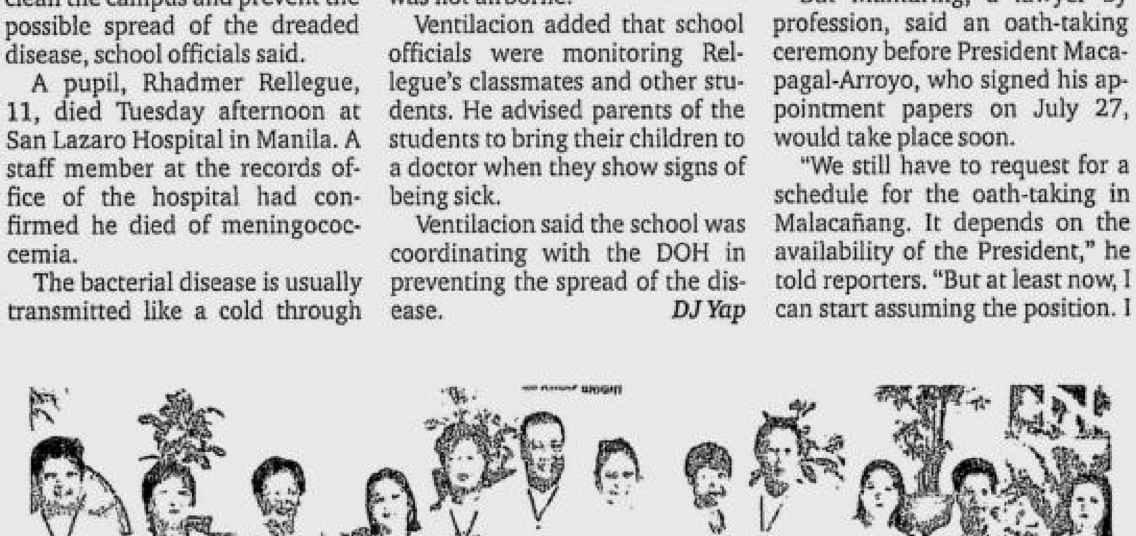
"Now that the reshuffle is over, we will observe their performance and see what positions they are best suited for," he said.

Asked to comment on the reported appointment of former Manila Police District Director Pedro Bulaong as his deputy, Mantaring said: "I just read this in the papers. Besides, it's all speculation at this point."

Meanwhile, agents and special investigators of NBI yesterday welcomed Mantaring's appointment as the bureau's permanent chief.

In an earlier interview, NBI Investigators Mutual and Benefit Association Inc. secretary Waldo Palattao, speaking in behalf of the organization's 400 members, said Mantaring was "perfectly suited for the job because he had risen from the ranks."

The names of former PNP chief Director General Arturo Lumibao, Quezon City Regional Trial Court judge Ralph Lee and Bulaong also floated as possible replacements for Wycoco.



**TOPS IN BARANGAY NUTRITION**
Mandaluyong Mayor Neptali Gonzales II and his wife, City Nutrition Action Officer Queenie Gonzales (6th and 7th from left), honored 10 outstanding Barangay Nutrition Scholars (BNS) of the city in ceremonies held recently to mark Nutrition Month. The search recognizes the BNS's continuing efforts to monitor the nutrition needs of every child in the city.

# 'Flood control project not flawed'

By Nancy C. Carvajal

THE DESIGN OF THE P5-BILLION Camanava (Caloocan-Malabon-Navotas-Valenzuela) flood control project is not "flawed," according to an official of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Engineer Gil Reyes, assistant director for design of the DPWH, said some corrective measures could be done after the project is completed.

The project is meant to end the perennial problem of flooding in northern Metro Manila.

Two geology professors of the University of the Philippines, Fernando Siringan and Kelvin Rodolfo, had questioned the technical design of the project, saying certain flaws could endanger people's lives.

Published reports quoted the geologists as saying increasing ground subsidence (sinking), not taken into account in the design, could sink adjacent lands in the next 10 to 20 years.

DPWH Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane ordered the reassessment of the project design following these observations.

Reyes said they had submitted the report of their reassessment to the secretary. He refused to give details on the report but said his team submitted several recommendations addressing, among others, the issue of land subsidence.

"I don't have a disagreement with the professors (regarding) land subsidence but it does not make the design flawed," Reyes said.

"Continuous monitoring of the ground subsidence would determine its increase and corresponding measures must be applied," Reyes said. The project, contracted by Nishimatsu Construction Co. Ltd., was funded by a loan from Japan Bank for International Cooperation or JBIC.

Begun in May, the project, flood control director Carla Bartolo reported to Ebdane, was now 55 percent complete. Initially scheduled to be finished March 30, it is expected to be completed by June 30, 2007.

# Makati to hold travel 'tiangge,' hosts city tours for visitors

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE MAKATI CITY GOVERNment will hold its first "Travel and Leisure Tiangge" Aug. 21-23 at the exhibit area of Glorietta 3 in Ayala Center.

The event promises to offer the best travel deals to those interested in exploring the country's varied exotic destinations.

Offers are good until November.

"We will be selling cheap travel and leisure packages. This is to help our industry partners during this time when people are less likely to pack their travel bags," said Celine Clemente, project chair and vice president of the Makati Tourism Foundation Inc. (MTFI).

The travel event would bring together the city's partners in the business of moving people, including the Philippine Airlines and the SuperFerry shipping line.

"This is our answer to the mayor's plans and programs to promote Makati as a business and travel destination," said Clemente.

The MTFI brings together the private and public sectors to boost both Makati's local tourism industry and the country's domestic travel and leisure business.

Clemente said the *tiangge* would entice local and foreign tourists with travel packages at 50 percent discounts.

### Budget fares

For instance, SuperFerry would be selling one-way tickets to Cebu at P999, half the regular price.

Among the destinations to be offered are known tourist spots across the archipelago, including Davao, Palawan and Boracay Island in Antique.

Tickets purchased during the sale period would be valid until November, said Clemente.

"We want to send the message that travel need not be expensive," said Judd Salas, SuperFerry corporate communications officer.

In line with its effort to promote local tourism, the MTFI has begun working out a travel package for Makati City similar to those offered for trips to Asian destinations like Hong Kong and Bali in Indonesia.

Clemente said the MTFI would soon make available city tours around Makati as well.

"Foreign businessmen who come here could extend their stay and explore the various attractions the city has to offer," said Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay in a press briefing yesterday.

# Black Hawk down amid Iraq violence

BAGHDAD, IRAQ—A US ARMY helicopter crashed in Iraq's western Anbar province, leaving two crew members missing and four injured, as Iraqi and US reinforcements move into the capital in a bid to stem sectarian violence that threatens civil war.

In Baqouba, 55 km northeast of Baghdad, four people were killed and 16 wounded in a US air strike late Tuesday, police said. A Shiite mosque and nearby houses in the city were heavily damaged in the blast.

Four US service members were injured when the UH60 Blackhawk helicopter crashed Tuesday with six people on board during a routine flight to survey the area, the US command said in a statement on Wednesday.

The four injured troops were in stable condition, and it did not appear the crash was due to hostile fire, the statement said.

The ongoing violence in Baghdad has prompted US commanders to reinforce troop strength in the city. Over the past weeks, a force expected to number nearly 12,000 has been assembling here to try to take the streets back from Sunni and Shiite extremists.

A US statement on Tuesday said about 6,000 additional Iraqi troops were being sent to the Baghdad area, along with 3,500 soldiers of 172nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team and 2,000 troops from the US 1st Armored Division, which has served as a reserve force since last November.

"We must dramatically reduce the level of violence in Baghdad that is fueling sectarianism," said Maj. Gen. J.D. Thurman, commander of the coalition forces in Baghdad, where strife between Shiites and Sunnis runs the highest.

"Iraqi and US forces will help the citizens of Baghdad by reducing the violence that has plagued this city since the Samarra bombing," Thurman said. "Iraqi and Multinational Division-Baghdad soldiers will not fail the Iraqi people."

Much of the violence has been blamed on sectarian militias that have stepped up a campaign of tit-for-tat killings since the Feb. 22 bombing of a Shiite shrine in the northern city of Samarra.

Some of the reinforcements have already been seen patrolling a mostly Sunni neighborhood in western Baghdad, scene of armed confrontations between Sunni and Shiite gunmen.

Many of the militias responsible for sectarian violence are linked to political parties that are part of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's national unity government, and they are reluctant to disband their armed wings unless others do the same.

US Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad said there were talks under way between various Sunni and Shiite groups to reach agreements and sign pledges to end sectarian fighting.

Also Wednesday, Romanian President Traian Basescu arrived in Baghdad to meet Iraqi and US officials and visit some of his country's 890 troops stationed there. Basescu was received by President Jalal Talabani and will meet other key US and Iraqi officials.

In other violence on Wednesday, gunmen on two motorcycles assassinated Col. Qassim Abdel-Qadir, administrative head of an Iraqi army division in the southern city of Basra, said a police official who did not want to be named for security reasons.

Gunmen opened fire on Wednesday on a group of men selling black market gasoline in western Baghdad, killing three of them and wounding one, police said. *AP*

## Nagasaki observes 61st anniv of A-bomb

TOKYO—THE MAYOR OF NAgasaki, the second of only two cities ever attacked with an atomic bomb, blamed the world's nuclear powers for stalled efforts toward disarmament Wednesday as he marked the 61st anniversary of the bombing.

Mayor Itcho Ito blamed countries with nuclear arms, including the United States and North Korea, for not working earnestly toward nuclear disarmament.

"The US is acquiescing in India's nuclear development and is in the process of building up a system for nuclear technology cooperation," Ito told a memorial service in the Japanese city attended by nearly 5,000 survivors, officials and guests and broadcast on national television.

He said North Korea, which claims to possess nuclear weapons, was "threatening the peace and stability of Japan, as well as the rest of the world."

Ito also said that an international pact to prevent nuclear proliferation was "on the verge of collapsing."

Participants in the service at Peace Memorial Park, just a few hundred meters from the center of the blast, observed a moment of silence at 11:02 a.m., when the bomb was dropped 61 years ago.

Kikuyo Nakamura, 82, said she was concerned that many of those who survived the bombing had died and that the atomic attack could soon be forgotten.

"I will never forget what happened 61 years ago. Now I feel compelled to tell others how stupid, scary and cruel the war was," she said.

Wednesday's ceremony followed a memorial service on Sunday in Hiroshima, where about 45,000 people gathered in the city's peace park. *AP*

**NEW HERO OF ISLAMIC WORLD**
Iranians hold up portraits of Lebanese Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah during an Aug. 9 demonstration to show support for the Shiite leader. In Muslim countries from Morocco to Indonesia, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah is being hailed as the man who took on mighty Israel—and is winning.
AFP

## North Korea requests South for flood aid

SEOUL—NORTH KOREA HAS requested help from South Korea to cope with devastating floods, a move that could improve inter-Korean relations chilled by the North's recent missile test-launches.

It was the first time the communist nation has officially requested South Korean aid since the floods in mid-July spawned by heavy rains that left at least 549 people dead and 295 missing.

The North asked South Korea to provide food, blankets and medical supplies, along with construction materials and equipment including cement and trucks to help recover from the disaster, Park Ji-yong, an official at a South Korean committee working for reconciliation between the Koreas.

"We expressed thanks for various (South Korean) groups' efforts," the North's reconciliation committee said in a fax message to its South Korean counterpart.

The two committees are private organizations dedicated to implementing a joint declaration calling for inter-Korean rapprochement and cooperation that was adopted at a landmark inter-Korean summit in 2000. Though the North's committee is nominally a civic group, it often acts as an unofficial mouthpiece for the isolated communist regime that doesn't tolerate anything other than its official line.

North Korea had initially said it would handle the disaster on its own and rejected aid from South Korea's Red Cross, but a North Korean official said last week the country was in urgent need of food and would accept aid from South Korea.

South Korea has said recently it would consider contributing to private groups' aid missions for North Korean flood victims amid growing calls at home for aid to the South's impoverished neighbor. *AP*

## Charles complains about phone eavesdropping

LONDON—BRITISH POLICE were questioning a newspaper editor and another man on Wednesday in an investigation that began with complaints from Prince Charles' office about possible telephone eavesdropping, police and the paper said.

Police said they did not believe the phones of any members of the royal family had been targeted. But other public figures may have had their calls intercepted, raising potential security issues, the police said. They refused to specify who.

Police arrested three people on Tuesday in connection with the case. They did not identify the three, but the News of the World—known for its aggressive and often sensational reporting—said Clive Goodman, its royal editor, was among them.

Hayley Barlow, a spokesperson for the Sunday tabloid newspaper, declined to comment further.

A 48-year-old man, who has been identified as Goodman, and a 35-year-old man remained in custody on Wednesday morning, while a 50-year-old man was released but is likely to face further questioning, police said.

Police said they had completed searches of the residences of the two men still in custody. All three were arrested at their homes in London.

The investigation was prompted by complaints from Charles' Clarence House office to the police's royalty protection department.

"It is focused on alleged repeated security breaches within telephone networks over a significant period of time and the potential impact this may have on protective security around a number of individuals," Metropolitan Police said in a statement.

Charles' office declined to comment on the arrests.

Antiterrorism officers are leading the investigation and police are working with phone companies in an effort to identify all those whose conversations were intercepted, they said.

Charles was the victim of an embarrassing eavesdropping effort in 1989, when he and his now-wife Camilla were recorded having a sexually explicit phone conversation while he was still married to Princess Diana.

The Sun tabloid later published the transcripts, and also ran excerpts of a conversation between Diana and a man who affectionately called her "Squidgy." *AP*

## WORLDBRIEFS

### Mexican leftist escalates protests

MEXICO CITY—Supporters of leftist candidate Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador targeted federal offices in escalating protests over allegations of electoral fraud, as officials are due to start a partial recount of votes from July's disputed presidential election. On Tuesday, hundreds of activists blockaded the entrance to the agriculture department and forced open highway toll booths for cars to stream through free-of-charge during rush hour—the latest in a wave of protests to demand a total recount of the presidential election. Lopez Obrador was the runner-up in an official count that gave ruling party candidate Felipe Calderon an advantage of 0.6 percent, or about 240,000 votes. The protests would continue all week, Lopez Obrador said, culminating in what he called an "extraordinary rally" in Mexico City on Sunday, the day officials are expected to finish recounting votes in about 9 percent of the nation's polling places.

*AP*

### Wrong ATM machine stolen

KUALA LUMPUR—Three would-be thieves broke into a bank in northern Malaysia but failed to make off with any cash as they yanked out the wrong machine — a check deposit machine instead of an automated cash dispenser, the national news agency Bernama reported Wednesday. The three men broke into the entrance area of the bank in the northern town of Bukit Mertajam early Wednesday, and tied a rope—attached to two vehicles—around a machine. They jerked the machine off its hinges, sending it crashing to the ground floor. The crashing sound alerted a security guard to the breach who chased them away. The three men had already managed to open the machine, but found no cash as it was a check deposit machine.

*AP*

### 2 powerful weather systems

TAIPEI—Taiwan was caught between two powerful weather systems on Wednesday as Tropical Storm Bopha crossed the island's south and Typhoon Saomai was approaching its heavily populated north. The Central Weather Bureau issued a land warning for Saomai in the island's north, including the capital, Taipei. *AP*

### Thaksin at crossroads

BANGKOK—Embattled Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra on Wednesday said that he had reached a crossroads over a decision whether to continue as prime minister or retire from politics. Thaksin started a campaign tour of northeastern Thailand on Monday ahead of Oct. 15 general elections. Thaksin said the pressure on his family has made him fed up with politics. *AP*

## Group offers China $100,000 to stop dog slaughter

BEIJING—A US ANIMAL PROtection group on Wednesday said it would give China US$100,000 to vaccinate dogs against rabies if it promises to immediately stop the mass slaughter of dogs in areas where humans have died from the disease.

"There are far better ways of addressing rabies control to promote the safety of your citizens, the good reputation of China and the welfare of dogs," Wayne Pacelle, president of The Humane Society of the United States, said in an open letter to China's ambassador in Washington.

The financial aid was offered to help set up a rabies control program in Jining, a city in the coastal province of Shandong, where officials last week killed thousands of dogs after 16 people died of rabies over an 8-month period.

An official with the Ministry of Agriculture's media affairs office declined to immediately comment and asked to first see a Chinese translation of the Humane Society's statement. He refused to give his name.

Officials in Mouding, a county in the southern province of Yunnan, last month clubbed to death more than 50,000 dogs after rabies killed three people in the area.

The killings provoked unusually pointed criticism in Chinese state media, while the activist group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals called for a boycott of Chinese products.

The official newspaper Legal Daily published an editorial calling the killings an "extraordinarily crude, cold-blooded and lazy way for the government to deal with epidemic disease." The main Xinhua News Agency said in a separate editorial that the slaughter was "the only way out of a bad situation."

The Humane Society said the money was conditional on China agreeing to stop the mass killing of dogs and accept the group's help in establishing a nationwide rabies control program that relies on vaccinations. *AP*

## Nokor women think dog meat good for skin

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA—DOG MEAT IS INcreasingly popular among women in North Korea because the traditional Korean delicacy is believed to be good for the skin, a pro-Pyongyang newspaper in Japan reported Wednesday.

Dog meat has long been regarded as a stamina food in both Koreas, widely consumed on hot summer days in particular.

North Korea is believed to have a greater variety of dishes with dog meat, known in the North as "sweet meat." South Korean gourmets who have tried the delicacy in the North, say Northern dishes taste better.

"Sweet meat has various vitamins, including Vitamin A and B and is good for digestion problems and fatigue," the Choson Sinbo newspaper said on its website seen in Seoul.

The paper quoted a cook at a dog meat restaurant in the North's capital, Pyongyang, as saying an increasing number of women are visiting the restaurant.

"Customers get convinced about the efficacy of sweet meat when they see the skin of our employees and cooks," the paper quoted the chef, Ryu Jong Mok, 47, as saying. *AP*

**FEEDING GIRAFFES**
Four-week-old baby giraffe Alex (second from right) and part of his herd are fed by visitors in cars at the 'Serengeti' Safari park in the northern German village of Hodenhagen.
REUTERS

*Editor* **Luverne B. Gueco**

# Bird flu flare-ups raise fears in Asia

**SEXUALLY SUGGESTIVE** AP

**Malaysian authorities fined organizers of a concert by the chart-topping Pussycat Dolls for allowing the singers to wear skimpy costumes and for their "sexually suggestive routines." The Subang Jaya Municipal Council, which administers the suburb where the sold-out concert was held in late July, fined organizers 10,000 ringgit. "In terms of their eye-popping attire, well, there's a lot of proof of that from our sources and the media," Mohamad Arif Abdul Rahman, the council president, said.**

HANOI—NEW BIRD FLU FLARE-UPS IN THAILAND and Laos and the steady march of the disease in Indonesia have raised concerns in other Asian countries that they too may see the deadly virus rise again.

Thailand last month confirmed its first human case in seven months when the H5N1 strain of the virus killed a 16-year-old boy. A second death was reported in Thailand on Saturday, prompting Vietnam's prime minister to call for heightened vigilance.

Vietnam, where bird flu has killed 42 people since it began ravaging poultry stocks about three years ago, has not logged any human cases in eight months or observed disease in birds this year.

The communist country credits strong political will and a mass poultry vaccination for its success, but a poultry outbreak last month in neighboring Laos—coupled with the Thai cases—has left officials on edge.

"The bird flu situation in the region makes us very worried," said Hoang Van Nam, deputy director of the Animal Health Department. "The risk of bird flu resurgence in Vietnam remains very high."

International experts say they're less concerned about Thailand and Vietnam, which have shown they can beat back the virus, than Indonesia, which does not have the same record of success.

Indonesia has tallied 44 deaths in the past year and became the world's hardest-hit country this week after two more teenagers died on the outskirts of Jakarta.

"Indonesia takes a lot of sleep away from me," said Juan Lubroth, an animal health expert at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome. "If we are not able to keep a lid on the problem, it could be a source for future outbreaks and an extension of the outbreaks to other parts of the world."

Bird flu has killed at least 137 people worldwide since it began ravaging Asian poultry in late 2003. Most human cases have been traced to contact with infected birds, but experts fear the virus could mutate into a form that passes easily among people, potentially sparking a pandemic.

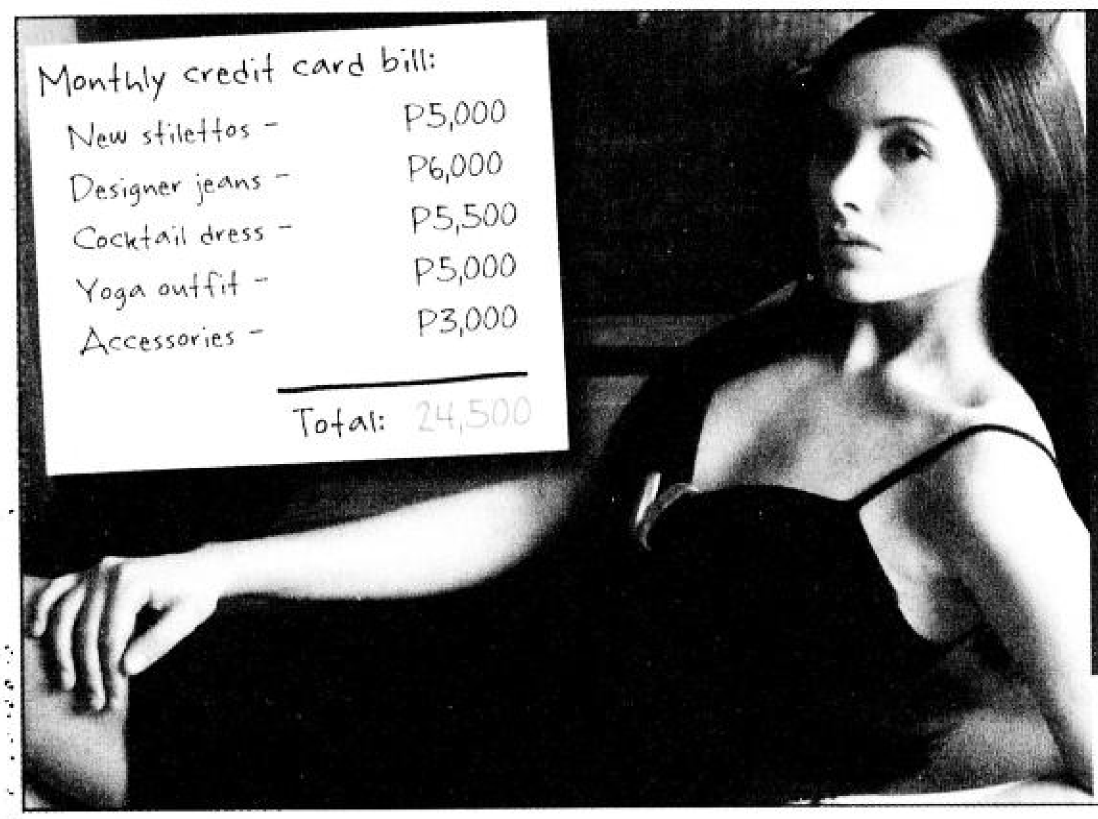
In May, Indonesia grabbed international attention when seven of eight family members infected with bird flu died on Sumatra island. The World Health Organization said limited human-to-human transmission occurred, but stopped with the last blood relative. No one outside the family fell ill.

The FAO has said the virus is rampant among billions of backyard chickens in Indonesia. Slaughtering often isn't carried out following outbreaks, vaccination is spotty and surveillance is weak.

Jakarta and the FAO are working to implement a national strategic plan that would tackle the problem at its source, but have so far only received a fraction of the $50 million needed.

"It is a slow process," Lubroth said. "Nobody said this is going to be a Hollywood movie that is going to end after two hours."

The reemergence in Thailand and Laos, along with continuing outbreaks in China, is a reminder of just how difficult it is to rid a country of the virus. *AP*



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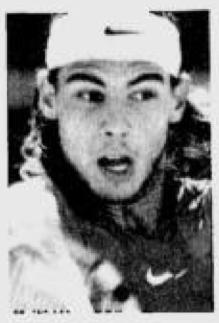

**WHAT'S INSIDE**

**Federer, Nadal clear hurdles** /A24

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# SPORTS

*Editor* **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

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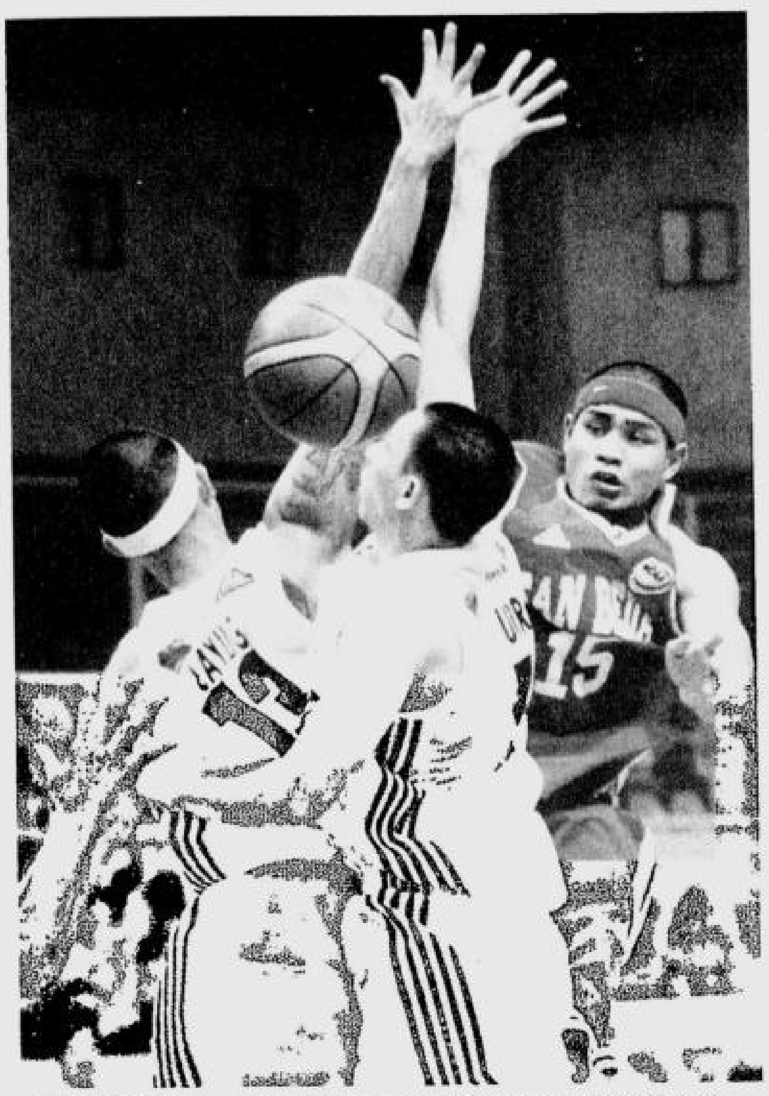
**US five passes test vs scrappy Brazil** /A24



**SAN BEDA'S Rogemar Menor loses possession as St. Benilde's Gerald Layug and Matin Urra form a solid wall in yesterday's game.** RYAN LIM

# Lions survive Blazers in OT, enter Final 4

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE SAN BEDA LIONS LEARNED A FEW lessons from the most unlikely source.

Overcoming a sluggish start, the Lions revved it up in overtime to post a 55-48 victory over the lowly St. Benilde Blazers and claim a Final Four berth in the NCAA men's basketball tournament yesterday at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

While everyone else looked off-form, Rogemar Menor came through with 18 points and seven rebounds to lead the Lions to their eighth straight victory.

"It was an ugly win," admitted San Beda coach Koy Banal. "We thought we're already ready for the semis, but we still have a lot of things to learn. I'm thankful to CSB, they pushed us to the limit."

In the second game, the Philippine Christian U Dolphins also claimed a semifinal seat with an 81-71 victory over the San Sebastian Stags.

Gabby Espinas shot a game-high 23 points to lead the Dolphins to their eighth win in 10 games.

Menor, who got back from a one-game suspension, and Raymund Maggay opened the Lions' charge in the extra period for a 48-43 advantage.

The Blazers, who had recently dropped their semifinal bid, skidded further with a 1-9 record.

Connecting from long range, the Lions fired 12 of their 16 points from beyond the arc in their fourth-quarter rally.

A Menor triple tied the game at 41, while Sam Ekwe's low-post basket gave the Lions their first lead, 43-41, late in the fourth period.

Blazers center Gerald Layug buried a jumper that knotted the contest, 43-43, with 54.8 seconds.

The Blazers had the opportunity to upset the Lions, but Pipo Manding was slapped with a traveling violation with only 3.3 ticks remaining.

The Lions finished with only three points in the first period, the lowest in one quarter this season.

| STANDINGS | W | L |
|---|---|---|
| San Beda | 9 | 1 |
| Letran | 8 | 1 |
| PCU | 8 | 2 |
| Mapua | 5 | 4 |
| S.Sebastian | 3 | 7 |
| Perpetual | 2 | 7 |
| JRU | 2 | 7 |
| St. Benilde | 1 | 9 |

GAMES TOMORROW
*(N. Aquino Stadium)*
12 nn.— JRU vs Letran (Jrs/Srs)
4 p.m.— Perpetual vs Mapua (Srs)

After trailing by as many as 12 points, 17-29, Riego Gamalinda sparked the Lions' recovery to cut the deficit to 27-33 by the end of the third period.

The St. Benilde-La Salle Greenies proved steadier in junior play by pulling off a 64-62 stunner over the powerhouse San Beda Cubs.

Despite the loss, the Cubs remained on top at 7-2, while the Greenies improved their record to 4-5.

**The scores:**

**Second Game (Srs)**

**SAN BEDA 55**-Menor 18, Escobal 9, Gamalinda 8, Ekwe 6, Hermida 5, Angeles 4, Maggay 3, Aljamal 1, Taganas 1, Tecson 0, Canlas 0.

**ST. BENILDE 48** -M. Urra 20, Robles 11, Layug 8, Aldover 4, Libunao 3, Manding 2, Cadiz 0, D. Urra 0, Devaras 0, Sevilla 0, Trillo 0, David 0, Manlapaz 0, Johnston 0, Umlas 0.

**Quarters:** 3-12, 17-27, 27-33, 43-43, 55-48 (OT)

**Third Game (Srs)**

**PCU 81**-Espinas 23, Castro 15, Navarro 12, Garrido 9, David 5, Amparado 4, Hermosa 3, Chien 3, McCoy 2, Belga 2, Graham 2, Javelona 1, Santos 0, Vidal 0, Salem 0.

**SSC 71**-Viray 15, Vicente 15, Delgado 10, De Leon 10, Lindaya 8, Juan 7,Najorda 3, Ballesteros 3, Aquino 0, Quiamco 0.

**Quarters:** 21-21, 42-33, 62-53, 81-71

# *RP archers shatter 11 records*

CRACK FILIPINO ARCHERS, LED BY COMpound bow division gold medalist Earl Benjamin Yap, ripped 11 national records in the recent 2nd Asian Grand Prix tournament held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

A 21-year-old Production Design graduate of La Salle College of St. Benilde, Yap set nine new marks and equaled one. The two other records were registered by the women's and men's squads in the Olympic recurve team event.

The Filipinos bagged a total of 13 medals, including three golds each by Amaya Paz and Yap in the compound bow division.

Yap's new records are 1379 points in the FITA Round, 331 (70-meter distance), 347 (70-m distance), 345 (50-m distance), 356 (30-m distance), 343 (12-arrow final round), 4024 (Team FITA Round), 343 (36-arrow final match) and 271 (Olympic Round team event 4x6).

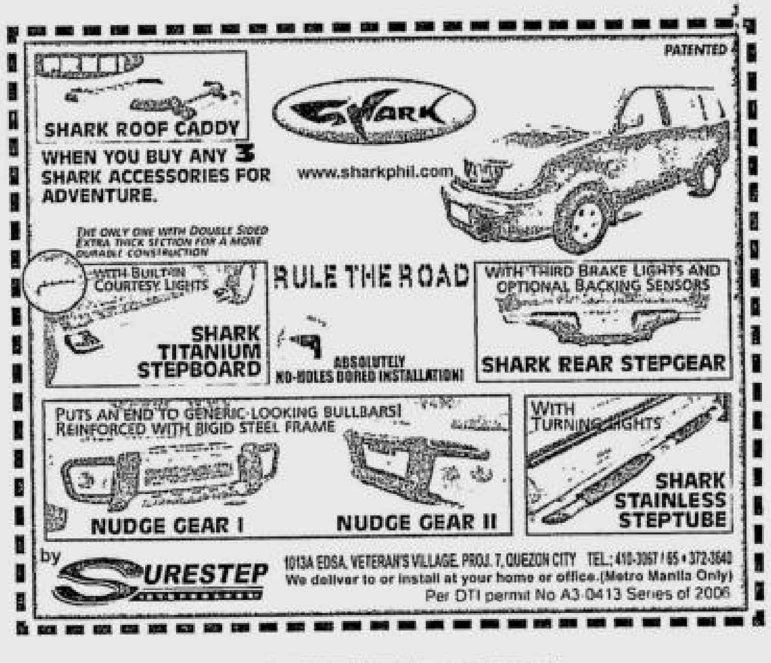
Yap erased the records set by Raul Arambulo in September 2002 and February 2005 in these events. He also tied the 116 mark for 12-arrow final match set by Carlos Carag in May 2002.

The new standard for women's recurve Olympic team event for 4x6 arrow match of 196 points was set by Jasmin Figueroa, Rachelle Anne Cabral and Katherine Annalyn Santos.

Mark Javier, Paul Marton dela Cruz, Christian Cubilla and Renato Bartolome set the other recurve mark, combining for 197 points to better the 190 of Sudac's Javier, Joseph Solitario, Ian Wayne Larsen Neil Divinagracia in the men's Olympic team 4x6 arrow match.

Ms Paz, undeniably the biggest Filipino winner as she added three silvers to her gold haul, equaled the 1373 Fita round record she posted in December during the 23rd Southeast Asian Games at the Subic Bay Freeport.

Mainly due to the overpowering performance of Ms Paz and Yap, the RP team emerged overall champion in the 2nd Asian GP with 29 points, followed by Indonesia and Malaysia.



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Per DTI permit No A3-0413 Series of 2006

# St. Clare repulses UM five

ST. CLARE COLLEGE (Caloocan) banked on the heroics of rookie Eugene Torres and veteran Gerald Geraldino to repulse reigning titlist University of Manila, 81-72, in the 2006 NAASCU men's basketball tournament at the Casa Milan gym in Fairview, Quezon City.

Torres, a 5-foot-11 guard, and Geraldino, a 6-5 center, combined for 38 points to power the Saints to their second win in five outings.

Torres finished with 22 points and Geraldino added 16 points for the Andy de Guzman-mentored Saints, who handed the Hawks their fourth setback in five matches.

Last year, St. Clare was the only team to beat UM also at the Casa Milan gym.

Onofre Napiza led the Hawks with 23 points, followed by Pol Santiago and Allen Maliksi with 18 points each.

In the junior division, New Era University downed UM, 79-70, behind Mel Pepito and Glenn Cadelina for its fifth straight win.

Pepito topscored with 15 points while Cadelina added 12. Renbert Bayo had 22 points for the Hawklets, who dropped to second at 3-1.

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# Baby Tams try to sustain win run versus Bullpups

**GAMES TODAY** *(Ninoy Aquino Stadium)*
12 nn—NU vs FEU (Jrs)
2 p.m.—UE vs Adamson (Jrs)
4 p.m.—UST vs UP (Jrs)

HOPING TO DO BETTER THAN their senior counterpart in the UAAP cage wars, the Far Eastern U Baby Tamaraws will try to sustain their winning run at the start of the second round of junior play.

Led by Socrates Rivera, the Baby Tamaraws will tackle the winless National U Bullpups at noon today at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Rivera, the pacesetter in the statistical race, averaged 15 points, 12.8 rebounds and a league-best 4 blocks per game at the end of the first round.

Equally impressive was teammate Mark Lopez, who ranked third at 13.8 points, 10.2 rebounds and 3.2 assists per outing.

The idle Ateneo Blue Eaglets ruled the first round with a six-game sweep and dealt the Baby Tamaraws their only loss this season.

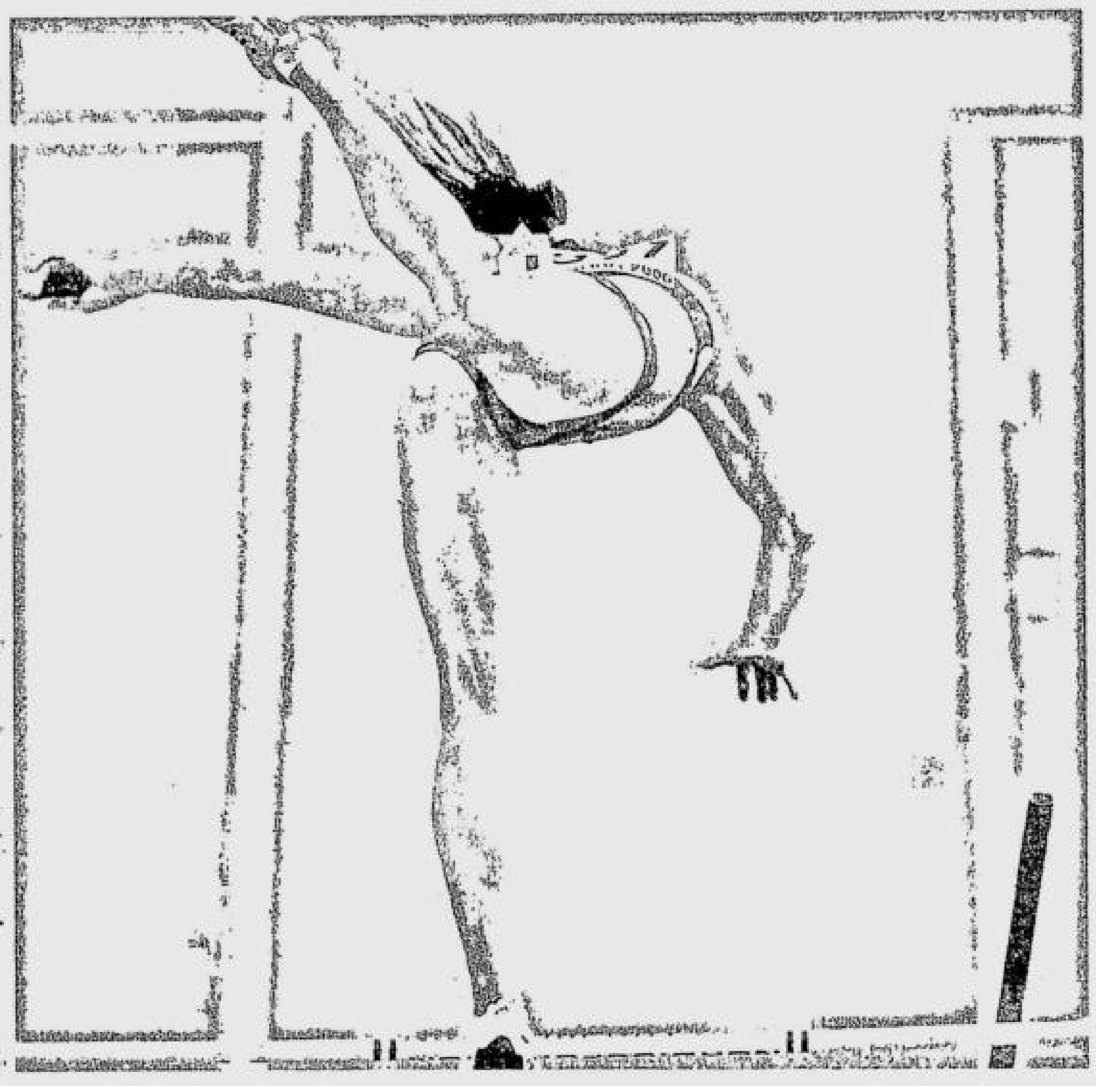
Kicking off the second-round action in the seniors division will be the defending champion Tamaraws, who will vie to recover from a poor 2-4 start against the Adamson Falcons at 4 p.m. on Saturday at the Philsports Arena.

Adamson wrapped up its first-round campaign at third place both in the senior and junior divisions.

The Baby Falcons will battle the University of the East Pages at 2 p.m. today, followed by the 4 p.m. tussle between the Sto. Tomas Tiger Cubs and the University of the Philippines Junior Maroons.

With Ken Acibar at the helm, the Baby Falcons will try to score a repeat of its 75-72 triumph over the Pages in the first round.

The fourth-running Junior Maroons, led by Jason Espiritu, will also gun for a double-round win after edging the Tiger Cubs, 78-76, in their first encounter. *Jasmine W. Payo*



**ALL CLEAR:** Russia's Yelena Isinbayeva clears the bar as she competes in women's pole vault qualifying during the European Athletics Championships in Goteborg, Sweden, Wednesday. AP

# Welcoat hires 3 crack ex-pros

By June Navarro

THE WELCOAT DRAGONS ARE HALFWAY through their manpower buildup for their maiden stint in the coming Philippine Basketball Association season.

GELIG

After elevating three mainstays from their amateur squads, the Dragons have acquired three more players from a tryout among former PBA players which ended yesterday.

Player-agent Danny Espiritu said the Dragons have reached an agreement with Froilan Baguion, Gilbert Lao and the high-leaping Nino Gelig, who had impressed team owners Raymond Yu and Terry Que during the tryouts.

"It's already a done deal. We can sign the contract even before this day (yesterday) ends," said Espiritu.

Baguion, a peppery guard out of National University, will get a two-year deal with the Dragons along with the 6-foot-7 Lao and Gelig, who both played for the UST Tigers in the UAAP.

Financial terms were not divulged but an INQUIRER source said the three are bound to receive not more than P100,000 a month on the first year of the pact.

The three players will join Junjun Cabatu, Jay-R Reyes and Ernie Sagad, who were brought in by the Asian Coatings Phils. franchise from the PBL.

Welcoat's top gunner in the amateurs, Jercules Tangkay, will also be included in the roster.

The Dragons hope to tap Adonis Sta. Maria, Joey Mente, Rob Wainwright and Denver Lopez during the PBA dispersal draft today.

Welcoat can pick the players left "unprotected" by the nine other teams in the dispersal draft. Each team is required to name only 10 players on its protected list.

The Dragons are hoping Ginebra's Rommel Adducul would be available in the dispersal draft to fill their need for a veteran slotman.

In the rookie draft on Aug. 20, the Dragons expect to use their 10th and 11th picks overall either on Letran's Aaron Aban, 6-foot-8 Mark Andaya or Boyet Bautista if these players are still available by then.

## SPORTSWATCH

### Callaway demo days set

CALLAWAY GOLF WILL HOLD A SERIES OF DEMO days for its new products starting tomorrow from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Top Flite Driving Range in Quezon City. Regular hitters and visitors at Top Flite will be given the chance to test the BB Fusion irons and wedges, X-Tour wedges, FT Hybrid fairway wood, FT3 driver and Ben Hogan products which is now distributed locally again by Electrobus Consolidated Inc. Other demo days are scheduled at Veterans on Aug. 10, Villamor on Aug. 16, Las Piñas driving on Aug. 17, Southpoint on Aug. 23, Makati Golf on Aug. 24, Logcom on Aug. 30, Kagitingan on Aug. 31, Wack Wack on Sept. 14, CitiGolf on Sept. 15 and Camp Aguinaldo on Sept. 20.

### Las Piñas cockfest up

MORE THAN 60 FIGHTS WILL SPICE UP THE FAStest Win One-Cock Ulutan starting at 10 a.m. today at the Las Piñas Coliseum. Every five fights, the fastest win champion will be declared and shall receive P5,000. Likewise, each winner gets P1,000 as bonus, said hosts Ric and Rey Balgoa. "There is no moulting season here at Las Piñas Coliseum," said coliseum manager Alex Tobias. "Aficionados can expect thrilling encounters from start to finish." Last Saturday, 183 entries were registered in another Fastest Win event won by Acel Pilapil, whose Manager Acel entry posted the fastest winning time of 10.10 seconds. Call 873-1040 and 874-3910.

### King's Bakeshop wins

KING'S BAKESHOP NIPPED LYCEUM, 85-84, while John O downed Spring-Tagaytay in overtime, 90-82, to share the lead in the 10th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament at the Lyceum gym. Ex-pro Bryan Gahol fired 19 points to pace the Bakers to their second straight victory. John O trailed for three quarters before subduing Spring-Tagaytay after sending the game into overtime at 73. It was also John O's second consecutive win in the eight-team tourney organized by well-known basketball talent manager Danny Espiritu.

RACING TIPS
BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Mr. Lucas (6), At All Cost (1), Deity (2), Makati Haven (3)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Royal Scepter (2), Golden Vision (4), Lovely Bid (7), Top Priority (5)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Real Queen (6), Cebuana Spell (4), Qui Paris (7), Virginia (1)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Friendly Fire/Blue Sheikh (7), Nitty Gritty (4), Don't Dance (3), Yao Man (1)
Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)— Magic Bullet (3), El Cid (9), D'Minnows (6), West Swinger (4), Yonder Girl (5)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Magiliw (5), Kalashnikov (6), Wynana Raider (3), Eden's Quest (2)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)— Yankee Clipper (11), Fly Aday Fly (5), Divine Right (2), Ingay Ingay (9), Half Medium (1)
Race 8—(Super Six/Qrt/Tri) —Constant Queen (5), Dixie Dash (5), Chicklet (2), King's Crown (8), Kimagura (10), Princess Leighla (1)

# Cortez inks new pact; Aces want Johnny back

MIKE CORTEZ, ALASKA'S CRACK POINT guard, has signed a new three-year pact even as the Aces look into the possibility of rehiring one of the team's former stars, Johnny Abarrientos.

Coach Tim Cone declined to discuss the financial terms of the deal with Cortez, whose backcourt partnership with Willie Miller is one of the strongest in the league.

Sources said John Ferriols and Sonny Thoss have inked contract renewals with the Aces while negotiations with Eddie Laure are underway.

Alaska is also interested in getting back Abarrientos, the Most Valuable Player in 1996 who helped Alaska win nine titles in the '90s.

"We're definitely exploring the possibility of having him back," said Cone of the 36-year-old Abarrientos, whose contract with the Coca-Cola Tigers ends on Sept. 30.

Cone said team management is considering its salary cap, the available playing time to be given Abarrientos and what Coca-Cola could ask in return for Abarrientos.

"It's still up in the air and we don't know whether it's their (Tigers) ball or ours," said Cone during Wednesday evening's rookie camp at the Philsports Arena. *June Navarro*

# Open champ misses cut

DEVILLA

DEBBIE DE VILLA BOMBED OUT when the going got tough, limping with a fat 90 and bowing out of the 2006 US Women's Amateur qualifiers at the Pumpkin Ridge Golf Club's Witch Hollow Course in North Plains, Oregon Tuesday (Wednesday in Manila).

Under tougher playing conditions at the par-71 layout, De Villa struggled all day from the back tee, making bogeys, double and triple bogeys and even a quadruple bogey on the par-5 18th, which she birdied in the first round, when she failed to carry the ditch on her first two drives.

The 15-year-old De Villa, who shot a 77 in the first round, had nines of 47-43 for a 36-hole total of 167, finishing 144th among 156 starters.

"The course is really tough for her because it's too long especially in the second day when she struggled with her driver and missed a lot of fairways," said national team coach Bong Lopez. "After that 9 on the 18th, I think she felt really bad," said national team coach Bong Lopez.

It was worse as De Villa dropped 11 strokes in a nine-hole stretch, including back-to-back triple bogeys from No. 6 for that 47 in a forgettable stint that started out with a lot of promise but ended up with so much to be desired for the petite RP Ladies Open champion who simply lacked the power and length off the tee.

# 11 OFWs join National Pool

ELEVEN FILIPINOS WHO WORK ABROAD AS pool instructors and professional players are coming home to take part in the 2006 BSCP National Pool Championship set to start Wednesday.

Led by US-based Jose "Amang" Parica, the OFW players are coming from Japan, the Middle East and the US. Coming from Japan are Ruel Esquillo, Cresencio Baliton, Elvis Perez and Ramil Gallego.

From the Middle East, the players are Mario Tolentino, Joven Bustamente, James Ortega, Elmer Haya and Elvis Calasang. Tolentino placed third in the 2005 Solar Sports Philippine Open.

Another player coming from the US is Rommel Roque, a resident of California.

Parica reigned as Filipino champion in the '70s and '80s. The OFW players are scheduled to arrive this weekend.

# *Chot says RP five learned a lot in Doha*

By June Navarro

REYES

THEY KNEW WHAT TO EXpect even from the start.

National coach Vincent "Chot" Reyes said the RP basketball team built around Philippine Basketball Association players got the learning experience it wanted despite winding up winless in a recent tournament in Qatar.

"We knew the outcome even before we left given the competition we're facing," Reyes told the INQUIRER a day after the Nationals arrived from the Al-Emadi International Basketball Championship in Doha.

"But I'm happy and proud of the players. As individuals and as a team, we've learned a lot," added Reyes, who attended his first practice as San Miguel Beer coach yesterday.

Led by Talk 'N Text's Willie Miller, Mick Pennisi of Red Bull and Kerby Raymundo of Purefoods, the RP squad finished dead last in a field of four after dropping all its five games.

Reyes and the Nationals lost to Angola in the elimination round and bowed to Latvia and Qatar twice.

Another PBA-backed RP team also had a fruitless stint in Taipei, Taiwan, in the William Trent Jones Cup last month, finishing sixth among eight teams.

"We knew it was going to be very difficult," said Reyes of the Doha trip.

"In fact, I asked the team if we're willing to face the possibility of traveling there and not winning at all."

The answer to that, Reyes said, was the intensity and dedication the San Miguel Corp.-sponsored Nationals displayed even in the face of imminent defeat.

The Philippines was forced to play five games for five straight days after Angola, the top team from Africa, arrived a day late for the tournament. The Nationals were supposed to have a one-day break following three elimination-round games.

"Playing five straight games took its toll on the team. Though we didn't bring the best team, the trip was worth it because of the knowledge and experience that we gained out of it," said Reyes.

# Jao completes third Superbikes sweep

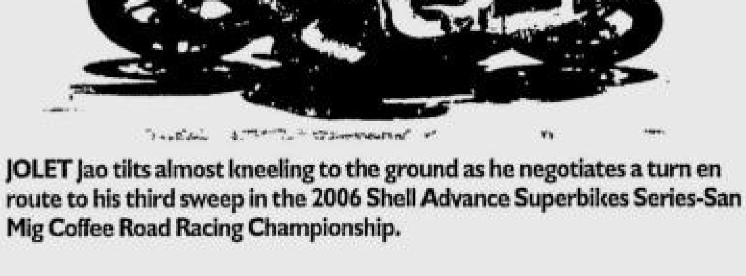
REIGNING TITLIST JOLET JAO of Shell Advance-Kawasaki came up with another sweep to keep his leadership in the third leg of the 2006 Shell Advance Superbikes Series-San Mig Coffee Road Racing Championship yesterday at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Jao stepped on the gas quickly and left the pack behind to rule both races in this event sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Safety and Sport Association.

He clocked 15 minutes and 44.603 seconds or 8.189 seconds ahead of runner-up Benjo Mendoza in the morning race. He was equally unstoppable in the afternoon where he finished the 10-lap race in 15 minutes and 49.345 seconds or 6.788 seconds ahead of Mendoza.

Jao now holds a total of 150 points that fortified his bid for a 10th road bikes crown.

Rod Chua, who represented the country in the Asian Road Race of Nations, took third place in the morning race while Wacky del Rosario and BJ Mendoza ended fourth and fifth, respectively.



**JOLET** Jao tilts almost kneeling to the ground as he negotiates a turn en route to his third sweep in the 2006 Shell Advance Superbikes Series-San Mig Coffee Road Racing Championship.

# Timberland Raceway hosting Endurocross

THE THIRD LEG OF THE ENDUrocross Series pushes through at the Timberland Raceway, Timberland Heights in San Mateo, Rizal, Sunday.

Categories at stake are Open Production, Beginners Open A & B Production, Executive Open and Local Enduro A, B and C.

Beginners and experienced motocross racers, as well as trail riders are welcome to join, said organizing KP5 president Nani Pazcoguin.

Major sponsors are Filinvest Land Inc., W.L. Foods and Chadarakobi Prods. The event is also backed by Norkis Yamaha, Shell Advance Motorcycle Oils, Otto shoes, ITTI Caterpillar, Reyes Haircutters, Coca-Cola, Chelsea direct sales, Oakley, Accel, Outdrive Engine Energizer, Sunbolt sports drink, Aqua Soft purified drinking water, Access Plus, Dan's bike shop, JBS, IMS, YRS, Networx, Oggie Doggie Hotdogs and Sausages, Sheeha 2 Money changer, Shell Mocha Blends and Mike G's bar and grill.

Call Racewurx (Allan Ayuson) at 0915-4026625, 0918-3715443 and 0922-3258413.

NCR'S Samantha Santiago (16) tries to maneuver past a Cagayan-Misamis Oriental defender in their match yesterday. NCR won, 9-0.

RENE GENOVE

# Viloria, Romero tip scales today

WORLD BOXING COUNCIL LIGHT FLYWEIGHT CHAMPION BRIAN Viloria and challenger Omar Nino Romero of Mexico will go through the official weigh-in today for their scheduled 12-round title fight tomorrow at the Orleans Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

VILORIA

Viloria will be making the second defense of the world title he acquired with a brutal first-round knockout of Mexican Eric Ortiz last year.

The fight will be aired live over Solar Sports and RPN starting at 10 a.m. on Friday (Manila time).

At the final press conference yesterday held inside Salon B of the Orleans Hotel and Casino, the undefeated champion declared he's ready to deal with whatever Romero brings into the table.

"I've had great sparring, great training," Viloria was quoted as saying. "I've been sparring with Russian Dimitri Kirilov at Wild Card gym. I feel great. We're going to go in, box, fight. Make him work hard. I'm not going to depend on a knockout; we're just going to get some work in and get the job done."

The 30-year-old Romero was not able to attend yesterday's press conference, but had earlier vowed to bring the title back to Mexico.

If successful, Viloria is looking forward to a possible unification fight with the brash WBA light flyweight champ Koki Kameda of Japan, although he insists he is not looking past Romero.

Meanwhile, tickets to the Viloria-Romero clash have been sold out that even Gary Gittelsohn, Viloria's manager, had difficulty getting some tickets for his VIPs who will be coming from the Philippines.

Promoter Bob Arum confirmed that Viloria will be fighting in a packed house, saying: "There isn't a ticket available. Every one has been bought by the casino because there's such a tremendous number of Hawaiians coming to see him fight." *Salven L. Lagumbay, contributor*

# Davao, NCR women's title showdown looms

**By Cedelf P. Tupas**
*PDI Visayas Bureau*

**DUMAGUETE CITY—A SCINTILLATING display of attacking football boosted reigning titlist Davao and NCR to the semifinals of the PFF-National Women's Open Championships yesterday.**

The attacking ploy injected by new American coach Shane Dasher continued to work wonders for the five-time champion Davaoeñas, who hardly gave up possession in a clinical 4-1 victory over Oriental Mindoro in their final Group A match at the muddy Silliman University pitch.

But the spotlight belonged to NCR's puny striker Edna Agravante, who produced an amazing goal-scoring display that highlighted NCR's 9-0 drubbing of Cagayan-Misamis Oriental.

An inch short of five feet, Agravante, the reigning PFF player of the year, mocked CMOFA's defense with her speed and skill to score six goals, mostly on one-on-one opportunities.

The semifinal pairings, however, have yet to be determined pending the outcome of the Negros Oriental-Iligan Group C match and the Cebu-Sultan Kudarat tiff simultaneously going on at presstime. The semifinals are set Friday.

"It's still a wide open race for the title. But NCR and Davao are favored to be in the finals at the rate things are going," said PFF president Juan Miguel "Johnny" Romualdez.

In the other Group B match, Iloilo dashed Negros Occidental's semis hopes with a 3-1 victory. Negros, which defeated CMOFA, 4-1, Tuesday, and Iloilo wound up with 3 points each.

Agravante, who now has 10 goals in just three games, eluded three defenders to break the ice in the 32nd minute. She caught the CMOFA defense napping a minute later for another goal from close range.

"We're peaking but not as quick as I had expected," said NCR coach Hans Smit, whose team also blanked Iloilo, 3-0, Tuesday with Agravante scoring two goals.

Smit welcomed the arrival of Sam Bermudez into the roster but he pulled her out after only 20 minutes of action, worried that she might aggravate a back injury.

But NCR simply had too much firepower. Fiona McKenzie struck in the 38th minute to make it 3-0 at halftime and Mary Ignacio and Jessica Ryon contributed a goal each in the second half, where Agravante scored four times.

Except for the odd goal they gave up to OrMin FA striker Farrabeth Limbo in the 49th minute, the Davaoeñas, who got two goals from Rachelle de los Reyes, were in control throughout.

Winger Analou Ingles came up with the best goal of the tournament so far, slicing through the defense with a breathtaking run from the right wing to the center, before pouncing on a cross by Lomalyn Fama using her right foot that pushed Davao 3-1 ahead in the 73rd minute.

Herlyn Mae Salmon used a cool first touch then blasted a shot to the lower left of the bottom corner to break the ice in the 10th minute.

# Asiad boxing bets a mix of old, new

**By Dennis U. Eroa**
*Libre sports editor*

A MIX OF BATTLE-HARDENED boxers and first-timers will carry the country's colors in the Doha Asian Games in December.

Although box-offs among members of the national training pool are still ongoing, Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny T. Lopez yesterday assured that only the best boxers will earn tickets to the quadrennial Games.

The country won a silver courtesy of light flyweight Harry Tañamor and a bronze through light-welterweight Romeo Brin in the 2002 Busan Asiad.

Lopez said the Philippines will field a minimum of six and a maximum of eight boxers in Doha.

Lopez said Tañamor and fellow Athens Olympian Violito Payla (flyweight) are boxing very well and they have a strong chance of making it to Doha.

"Between now and December, a lot of things can happen," said Lopez. "Presently, Harry and Violito are up there but other members of the pool are fast catching up."

Among the newcomers, Lopez believes that bantamweight Joan Tipon and lightweight Genebert Basadre have the inside track for Asiad slots.

National head coach Pat Gaspi said the Nationals are going through a "very rigid and strenuous eliminations" under the supervision of the coaching staff at the Teachers Camp in Baguio City.

Gaspi said Marvin Somodio, Delfin Boholst, Juan Martin Elorde, Orlando Tacuyan Jr., Bill Vicera and Junel Cantancio are in the running for the other Asiad slots.

# Pichay event stakes titles, Fide ratings

FILIPINO CHESS PLAYERS NEED NOT go abroad to earn their master titles and Fide (world chess federation) rating points anymore.

PICHAY

They can attain both by joining the 3rd Prospero Pichay Sr. Memorial Chess Tournament slated Aug. 12-15 in Cantilan, Surigao del Sur.

Congressman Prospero "Butch" Pichay, president of the National Chess Federation of the Philippines, made this possible by making arrangements to make the P300,000 tournament Fide-rated.

Congressman Pichay will grace the opening ceremony of the tournament which has lured the country's top players led by Grandmasters Mark Paragua, Joey Antonio and Eugene Torre, all members of Team Philippines to the Turin Chess Olympiad in May.

Originally slated Aug. 12-14, the event was extended by the organizing Friends of Pichay to coincide with Cantilan's town fiesta on Tuesday.

The organizers also decided to raise the prize money from the original P100,000 to lure players from Luzon and the Visayas.

For details, call tournament director NM Cesar Caturla at 0928-7132397.

# Bacolod's ETCS returns to Softball World Series

BACOLOD CITY—THE EDUCATION AND Training Center School was reinserted into the list of competing squads for the 2006 Junior League World Series in Kirkland, Washington, from Aug. 13-19.

Contrary to reports that ETCS will not be able to participate in the World Series, the Bacolod-based team left Tuesday morning to see action in the international event, according to Little League Philippines executive assistant Chito Gonzales.

The ETCS softbelles were stricken from the roster of the girls' 13-14 championship Monday only to be reinstated later on the same day after LLP negotiated with the LL Inc. headquarters in Williamsports, Pennsylvania, through e-mail, Gonzales explained.

He said that Pat Wilson, vice president for international affairs of LLI, reconsidered the participation of the Bacolod-based team after LLP had requested for his approval to reinsert ETCS in the roster.

Wilson had earlier instructed Junior League tournament director John Chadwick to remove the Philippines, represented by ETCS, in the girls' 13-14 division without a concrete reason.

The 12 Bacolod players and three coaches of ETCS left Manila at 7:55 a.m. Tuesday.

ETCS, which placed third in its previous two campaigns in the Little League, earned the right to see action in the World Series after topping the Philippine Series in Nueva Ecija in April. *Christian Irl Tan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

# Aunzo, Fernando share top

FERDIE AUNZO AND ANTHONY FERNANDO battled the tough conditions with similar one-under-par 71s yesterday to share a one-stroke lead in the rain-disrupted opening round of the Samsung Amateur Tour at the Splendido Taal Golf Club course in Batangas.

Denied of a win by Gene Bondoc in the previous leg in Davao, Aunzo put himself in contention again with four birdies and three bogeys as the tournament finally got under way after rains washed out Tuesday's first round and forced organizers to reduce the event to 54 holes.

Aunzo, however, found himself a tough challenger in Fernando who made nines of 34-37 likewise on four birdies and three bogeys on a day marred by a 30-minute delay due to a downpour.

Raul Ilagan became the first winner when he scored a 92 to top Class C of the tourney also backed by Taylor Made, C-Lium Fibre, Microtel, Titleist, Custom Clubmakers/KZG, Sunbolt. Sunrise Hotel in Tagaytay, the official hotel of the leg, is providing discounts for participants.

Class C, Class D and all brackets of the ladies division were reduced to 18 holes because of the cancellation of first round play.

It was a birdie on the par-5 last hole that ushered Ilagan to the win as second placer Ruben Sulit bogeyed and Johnny Yu stumbled with a double bogey. Sulit and Yu finished with 94s.

Jessie Balasabas and Kevin Tayao were just three strokes off the pace after carding 74s while Tommy Manotoc was in the company of Benjie Sarmiento and Eric Gozo at 75.

Fourteen players entered the last two rounds of play and among those who made it was Wolen Superal, the ex-world jungolf champ. He shot a 77 and tied for the last slot with three others.

# Pacman best pug pound-for-pound

FILIPINO RING ICON Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao held on to the No. 1 spot in the pound-for-pound rankings in the latest edition of the WBM Pro Boxing Poll released Monday by the ratings body.

PACQUIAO

This is Pacquiao's second consecutive month at the helm of the pound-for-pound hierarchy. He holds a narrow two-vote margin over unbeaten welterweight Floyd Mayweather Jr., who is considered the best by rival ranking body Ring Magazine.

Pacquiao's votirig edge over Mayweather was the same as last month. The Filipino fighter is unbeaten in two outings this year, and has a third bout scheduled with Erik Morales in November.

The objective of the WBM Pro Boxing Poll is to recognize the achievements of deserving professional boxers by giving voice to boxing journalists. The poll includes voting members from the US, Canada, England, Ireland, Italy, Panama, Australia and New Zealand. *Salven Lagumbay*

# FEU, UST jins prevail

FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY'S Team B and University of Sto. Tomas' Black squad bagged the men's and women's (advance) gold medals, respectively, in the recent 29th Petron National taekwondo championships at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

The Easterners beat silver medalist University of the East and cobonze winners San Beda College Mendiola and De La Salle University Gold team in the men's event.

The Thomasians finished ahead of UST Gold and bronze winners UE and Rizal Technological University.

PNPA emerged victorious in the men's novice competition while PNPA Team A topped the women's novice event. University of Manila and Lyceum were the men's and women's silver medalists.

# Stockinger wins; Madrigal sparkles

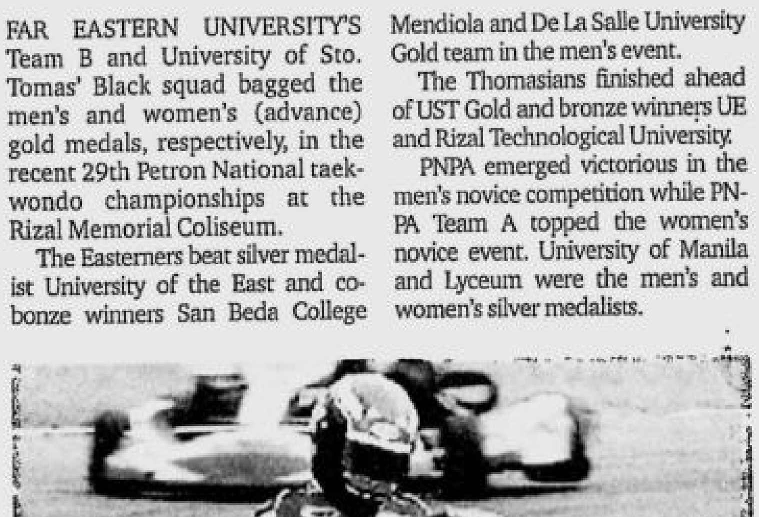
FRESH FROM HIS STINT IN THE AUSTRIAN leg of the Euro Rotax Challenge where he finished eighth, Marlon Stockinger added to his list of conquests the fifth round of the 2006 Rotax Invitational Challenge held at the Carmona Circuit Philippines on Aug. 4.

Stockinger, a veteran of two Rotax Max World Championships, started from pole position and pulled away unopposed in the 20-lap race which was made challenging by the damp track that befuddled most of the competitors. The 15-year-old's second win in the series earned him P42,500.

Karting sensation Alessandra Madrigal, 10, upended her more experienced rivals to post her best finish in the Rotax category. The plucky youngster qualified in seventh place then worked her way up to finish second in the final and take home P22,500.

Daniel Cleak, series leader Ivan Carapiet, and 2004 Karter of the Year Matteo Guidicelli, finished third, fourth and fifth, respectively. They pocketed P15,000, P10,000 and P7,500 in that order. Round 3 winner Stefano Marcelo, who flew in straight from a productive stint in the Italian Karting Series to compete in the Invitational, battled setup problems throughout the day due to a bent chassis, which cost him a respectable finish in the event sponsored by ING Banking, Pitts, Petron, Chicago City Day School, Ford Global City, Nissan Gallery and Klassik BMW.

In the Cadet 85 category, Renz Pascoguin won at the expense of Vei-Ar and Vencer Suba. They won P8,000, P5,000 and P3,000, respectively.



**ALESSANDRA** Madrigal (96) keeps rivals at bay during the final race of the 2006 Rotax Invitational Challenge at the Carmona Circuit Philippines.

# SPORTS

RAFAEL Nadal: Ready for revenge REUTERS

## Federer, Nadal clear hurdles

TORONTO — TOP-SEEDED ROGER Federer and defending champion Rafael Nadal cleared their first hurdles in straight sets at the Rogers Cup on Tuesday.

Federer whipped Paul-Henri Mathieu of France, a semifinalist last year, 6-3, 6-4, while second-seeded Nadal eased past Olympic champ Nicolas Massu 6-3, 6-2.

For both favorites it was their first match since the Wimbledon final a month ago, where Federer defeated Nadal for his eighth Grand Slam title and fourth straight at the All England Club.

Federer hit 14 aces against Mathieu and broke him once in each set without offering a break point. He then walked off with a piece of cake brought on court to celebrate his 25th birthday.

Nadal's nest foe is South Korean qualifier Lee Hyung-taik, who beat Colombian qualifier Alejandro Falla 6-0, 6-7 (5), 6-1. Federer will meet another Frenchman, Sebastien Grosjean.

Sixth-seeded Nikolay Davydenko, who won his second clay title this year on Sunday in Poland, lost to Xavier Malisse of Belgium 6-3, 7-5. Malisse, twice a finalist on hardcourts this year, broke the Russian three times.

Tommy Robredo won the last four games to oust 2000 titlist Marat Safin 7-5, 5-7, 6-2.

Lleyton Hewitt, who has never made it past the tournament's third round, struggled to beat Argentina's Juan Ignacio Chela 3-6, 6-2, 7-5.

British teen Andy Murray, runner-up in Washington on Sunday, dug out a 6-2, 7-6 (6) win over David Ferrer of Spain

Kevin Kim rallied past countryman and 17th-seeded Robby Ginepri 3-6, 7-5, 6-3, converting all three of his break points. Ginepri was seeded on Tuesday after No. 8 Radek Stepanek withdrew with an upper back strain.

Germany's Denis Gremelmayr replaced Stepanek in the draw and defeated Belgium's Kristof Vliegen 7-6 (2), 6-2.

Dmitry Tursunov, the Los Angeles runner-up and Washington semifinalist, topped Italy's Daniele Bracciali 4-6, 6-1, 6-4. *AP*

ROGER Federer: 14 aces AP

## Northwoods, Eastridge rip Fed Golf foes

**STANDINGS (Win-Loss-Draw-Points)**

**Group 1:** Eastridge 1-1-1-4, Orchard 1-1-1-3, Forest Hills 1-0-1-3, Wack Wack 1-1-0-2, Riviera 0-1-1-1,

**Group 2:** Southwoods 2-1-0-5, Sherwood Hills 2-0-0-4, Valley 1-1-0-2, Sta. Elena 0-2-0-0, Camp John Hay 0-1-0-0

**Group 3:** Northwoods 1-1-0-3, Alabang 1-0-1-3, Highlands 0-1-2-2, CDC-Mimosa 1-1-0-2, Canlubang 0-0-1-1

COMING OFF BLOWOUT LOSSES, FORMER champion Royal Northwoods and Eastridge regained lost ground by hacking out 4-0 victories over their respective opponents in the Federation Golf League 2006 matches in various venues over the weekend.

Junie Fontanilla and Lee Hyn Jin took the high-low match on the last hole to complete Northwoods' domination of Tagaytay Highlands.

The big win which followed a stunning loss to Mimosa last weekend sent the Bulakenos zooming to the lead in Group 3 with three points including the bonus point for the sweep.

Boy Ungson-Rodel Mangulabnan gave Northwoods, the 2004 champion, the first point by abbreviating the aggregate match (7&5), Omar Dungca-Richard Joson followed suit by winning the scramble (4&3) then Boy Ungson-Bernard Joson ensured the victory by clinching the greensome point (2 up).

After losing to Wack Wack last week, Eastridge got back hard on their tormentors in their return match.

The Rizal team routed their Mandaluyong-based foes with Andre Cornejo-Ted Runes (greensomes), King Sumulong-Eric del Rosario (high-low) and Chino Raymundo-Sang Ho Park (aggregate) netting 2-1 results and Jung Soo-park-Henry Lacuna taking a 4&3 win in scramble.

Eastridge suddenly found itself leading the pack in Group 1 with 4 points, ahead by a point over Orchard and defending champion Forest Hills which battled to a draw.

In another shocker, Sherwood Hills brought down sister team Manila Southwoods, 3-1, in a Group 2 match, counting on wins by Junjun Plana-Boy Escano, Thirdy Escano-Yuichiro Nakanishi and Erwin Vinluan-Joey Arguelles.

## US five passes test vs scrappy Brazil

BRAZIL'S Anderson Varejao (center) vies for the ball under the basket with Chris Bosh (left), Elton Brand (14) and LeBron James (blocked by Varejao) of the United States in the China Basketball Challenge in Guangzhou. AFP

**GUANGZHOU, CHINA — AFTER A PAIR OF BIG BLOWOUTS, THE US finally got some competition.**

Carmelo Anthony scored 16 first-half points and Kirk Hinrich added 14 more as the United States ground out a 90-86 win over scrapp uesday.

"I think this is a great game for us and we needed this," said Atlanta Hawks g uard Joe Johnson, who had 12 points and closed out the win from the free throw line.

"We needed to be tested, and tonight we showed a lot of pride."

Down 14 points at the half, Brazil came alive at the restart, scoring 16 unanswered points over six minutes to take a 54-52 lead. The sides traded the lead constantly through the quarter and it remained a three-point game into the final 30 seconds when Brazil began to come apart.

Hinrich was 8-for-8 from the free throw line, and hit two out of four three pointers.

"It was a game of a lot of adversity for both teams," coach Mike Krzyzewski said.

"Our guys, I'm proud of them because they made winning plays down the stretch," Krzyzewski added.

Anthony helped set a blistering pace in the first half, giving the U.S. a 52-38 lead at the half.

But he slipped while chasing a ball to the sidelines, crashing into Krzyzewski, and left the game with a hyperextended right knee with 2 minutes 21 seconds left in the second quarter. Team officials said the injury did not appear serious.

With no one stepping in to fill Anthony's role, Brazil went on the attack. Guard Welington Dos Santos flummoxed the American defense with his speed and passing, while Leandro Barbosa of the Phoenix Suns and Alex Garcia repeatedly drove to the basket. Both finished the game with 14 points.

The win follows two easy victories this month for the Americans—a 46-point win over China and 45-point drubbing of Puerto Rico—and offered a likely preview of how tough the competition will be at the worlds, which get under way in Japan Aug. 19.

"We invented the game, we sent our players and our coaches out to teach the world and now they're closing the gap," Jerry Colangelo, the US managing director, said.

The US next travels to South Korea before heading to Japan. *AP*

## Another Tiger romp seen at Medinah

LOS ANGELES—IF FORM AND MOMENTUM guaranteed golfing success, there would be no need to engrave any other name than Tiger Woods on the Wanamaker Trophy for next week's PGA Championship at Medinah.

The world number one has triumphed in his last two events and, according to his caddie Steve Williams, has never swung the club better.

American Woods clinched his 11th major title with a two-shot victory in last month's British Open at Hoylake, producing what he described as one of the best ball-striking weeks of his career.

In his next outing at last week's Buick Open, he strung together four consecutive rounds of 66 to complete his 50th victory on the PGA Tour.

WOODS

He racked up a career-high 28 birdies over the four days, largely because his putting and distance control with irons were in impeccable order.

Perhaps of even more significance, his driving accuracy was an impressive 66.1 percent during the week, and this is the one department of his game which has so often been his Achilles' heel.

He has now secured victory in more than 25 percent of his professional starts on the PGA Tour, with 50 titles in 196 appearances.

If these statistics are not enough to induce a cold sweat in his rivals at Medinah, they can also ponder the fact that Woods won the PGA Championship the last time it was staged there in 1999.

Hardly surprisingly, the game's leading player is in upbeat mood as he prepares for the final major of the year.

"It sure does give you a big boost of confidence that the things you're working on are positive," Woods told reporters after his victory at Warwick Hills Golf and Country Club on Sunday. *Reuters*

## Lebanon still joining tourney despite war

BEIRUT—THEIR COUNTRY MAY be in the grip of bloody conflict between Israel and Hezbollah but Lebanon's basketball players are determined to prove that life can go on.

Israeli blockades have cut their home country off from the rest of the world and sports stadiums have been transformed into refugee camps but it will not stop Lebanon's participation in the upcoming basketball world championships.

The same cannot be said for other sports.

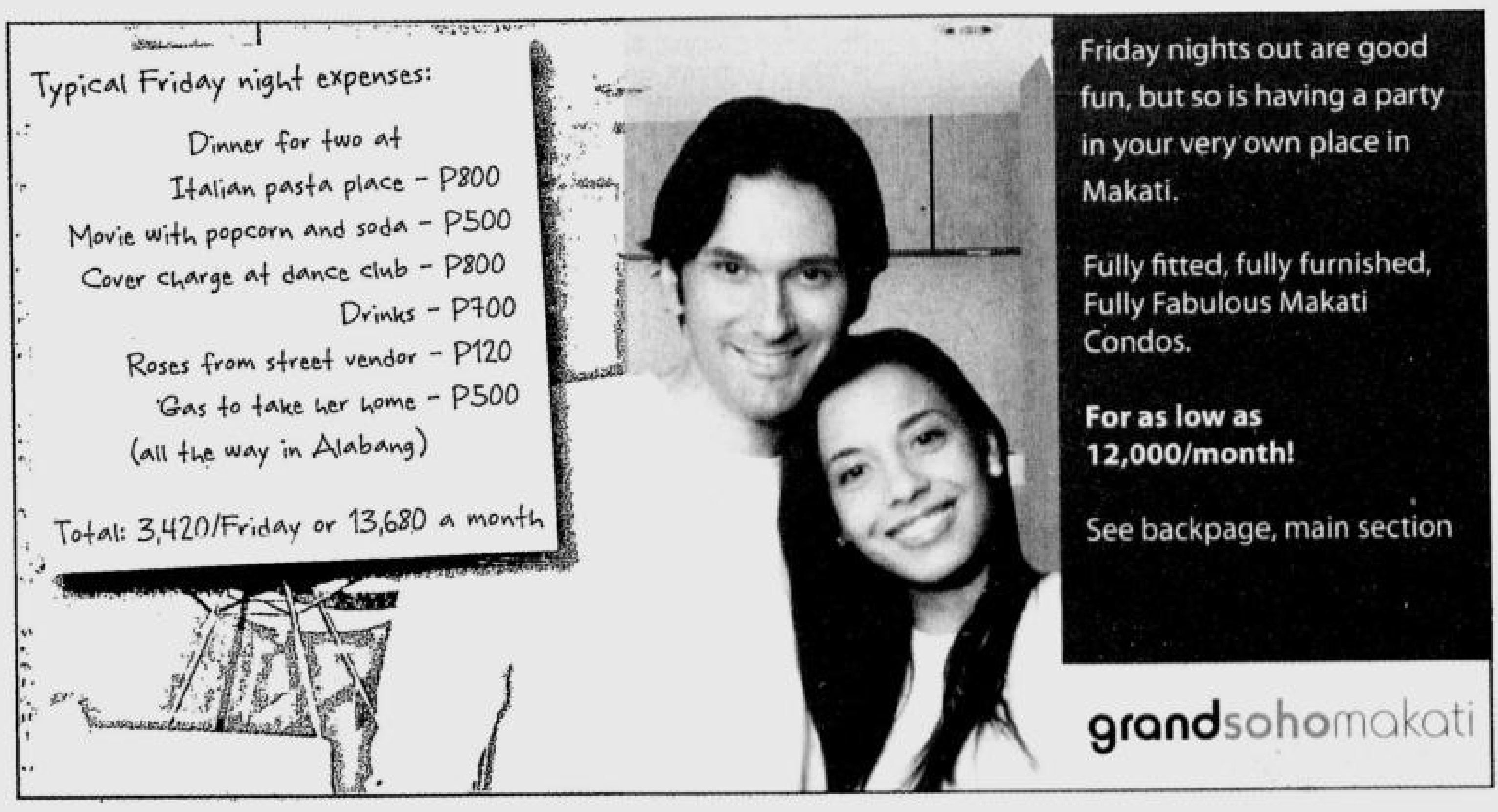
The country's football team have already had to pull out of the Asian Cup qualifying tournament while the country's club sides face an uncertain future in the Asian Champions League and Federation Cup.

But the basketball team have proved that sport in the country is not at a total standstill and have started on their road to the World Championships, from August 19 to September 3 in Japan.

Before the conflict in Israel and Lebanon erupted last month, the team had already secured the funding to embark on a trip that took in warm-up tournaments in Istanbul, via Syria and Jordan, and Slovenia.

The team heads to the Philippines for their final preparation games before travelling to Japan.

Four years ago in Indianapolis, USA, Lebanon finished last. *AFP*



Typical Friday night expenses:
Dinner for two at
Italian pasta place - P800
Movie with popcorn and soda - P500
Cover charge at dance club - P800
Drinks - P700
Roses from street vendor - P120
Gas to take her home - P500
(all the way in Alabang)
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See backpage, main section

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## Leno grills Landis on Tonight Show

BURBANK, CALIFORNIA—TV show host Jay Leno didn't let Floyd Landis off easy, and the embattled Tour de France champion responded with yet another theory as to why he flunked a drug test.

LANDIS

Questioned by the "Tonight Show" host on Tuesday, Landis said he may have unknowingly ingested something that made him test positive for a high testosterone ratio.

"I see you on these shows and I do want to believe you and evidence seems — I don't know if it's overwhelming — but it seems pretty conclusive, right?" Leno said.

Landis said yes, if one goes by the tests, and Leno shot back, "Why should we not go by the tests? Tell me why."

Landis responded that there were several possibilities, saying, "The tests and the people doing the tests would like you to believe that the only possibility is that I essentially took some drugs and that's why the test is that way.

"Now there's also the possibility, and it's an argument that has been used by other people. At this point, I don't know if it's somehow or some way I ingested something that caused the tests to be that way."

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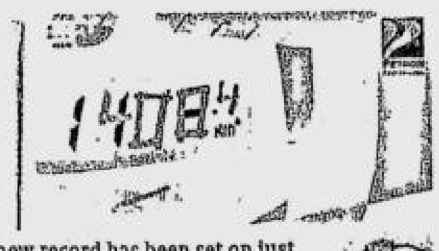


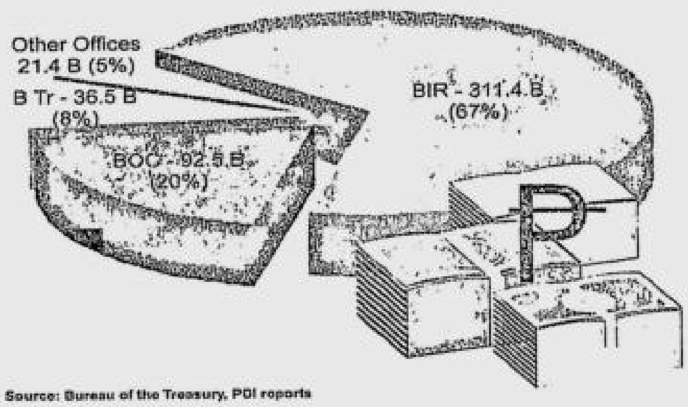
A new record has been set on just one full tank of Petron Xtra Unleaded.

# BSP seen to keep rates unchanged

**INQUIRER MONITOR**
Figures that matter in our nation's life

### Cash revenues almost P11 B above program
**(January to June 2006, in billion pesos)**

Excess cash revenues for the first half of the year reached P10.9 billion as the P18.1 billion combined cash surplus of the Bureau of Customs, Bureau of Treasury and other offices made up for the P7.2 billion shortfall of the Bureau of Internal Revenue which had a P318.6 billion target. The cash surplus is 73 percent of the recorded P15 billion total excess revenues.



Source: Bureau of the Treasury, PDI reports
Kate V. Pedroso PDI Research

## Monetary easing likely in 4th quarter

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS IS LIKELY TO KEEP ITS INterest rates steady for the 10th straight month at its monetary policy-setting meeting today but may start easing by the fourth quarter given the downtrend in inflation, ING Bank said.

The US Federal Reserve's decision to pause its own monetary tightening gave the BSP further room to keep its overnight rates unchanged, BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said yesterday.

"The Fed decision takes some pressure off interest rate differentials at least for now. This gives the central bank additional room for maintaining the current policy stance considering that the inflation outlook indicates a decelerating trend," Tetangco said.

The BSP has kept its key policy rates steady at 7.5 percent rate for overnight borrowing and 9.75 percent for overnight lending since October last year.

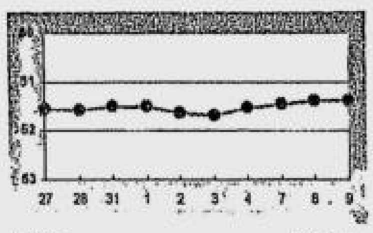
Singapore-based ING Bank economist Joey Cuyegkeng said in a report dated Aug. 8 that the BSP would likely keep its steady policy a while longer.

"BSP's steady monetary policy is designed to ensure the achievement of the 2007 inflation target of 4-5 percent. With the faster pass-through of higher crude oil prices, the

BSP/ B4

## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES



**PESO-DOLLAR RATE**

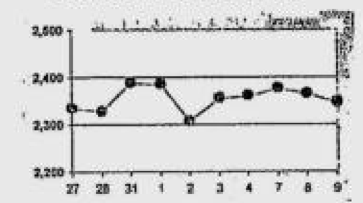
P 51.37 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 9, 2006

¥ 115.36 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 9, 2006

GOLD: $646.00-646.50
per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 8, 2006

### STOCK MARKET

**PSE COMPOSITE INDEX**



(See stock market report on Page B2)

## Gov't to intensify fight vs corruption, tax evasion

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION has formulated a blueprint for curbing corruption and tax evasion and has set a target of increasing by more than 300 percent the number of cases to be filed against dishonest public servants and taxpayers.

The blueprint, called the Threshold Country Plan (TCP), was submitted to the US government's Millennium Challenge Corp. (MCC), which has agreed to provide about $20 million in grant for the Philippine government's anti-corruption and revenue-enhancement drive.

The TCP is divided into two components—the strengthening of the Office of the Ombudsman and the intensification of the capacity of the Department of Finance in enforcing its anti-corruption and anti-tax evasion programs.

"Corruption makes the job of

GOV'T/ B4

**IN THIS ISSUE**

**Breaktime**
White pepper/B2

**Motor**
vehicle sales down slightly as of July /B8

## Fed ends two-year campaign of rate hikes

WASHINGTON—THE FEDERAL Reserve yesterday called off the longest run of interest rate increases in its recent history, explaining that slowing economic growth would vanquish the menace of inflation.

The central bank's Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) voted, with a lone dissenting voice, to keep the benchmark US cost of borrowing at 5.25 percent.

It was the first time since June 2004 that the bank has left the federal funds rate unchanged, a move that will please consumers and businesses in the United States and around the world.

But the bank did leave itself some room for maneuver, having brought the headline rate up from a 46-year low of one percent to squelch energy-induced inflation in the world's largest economy.

"Economic growth has moderated from its quite strong pace

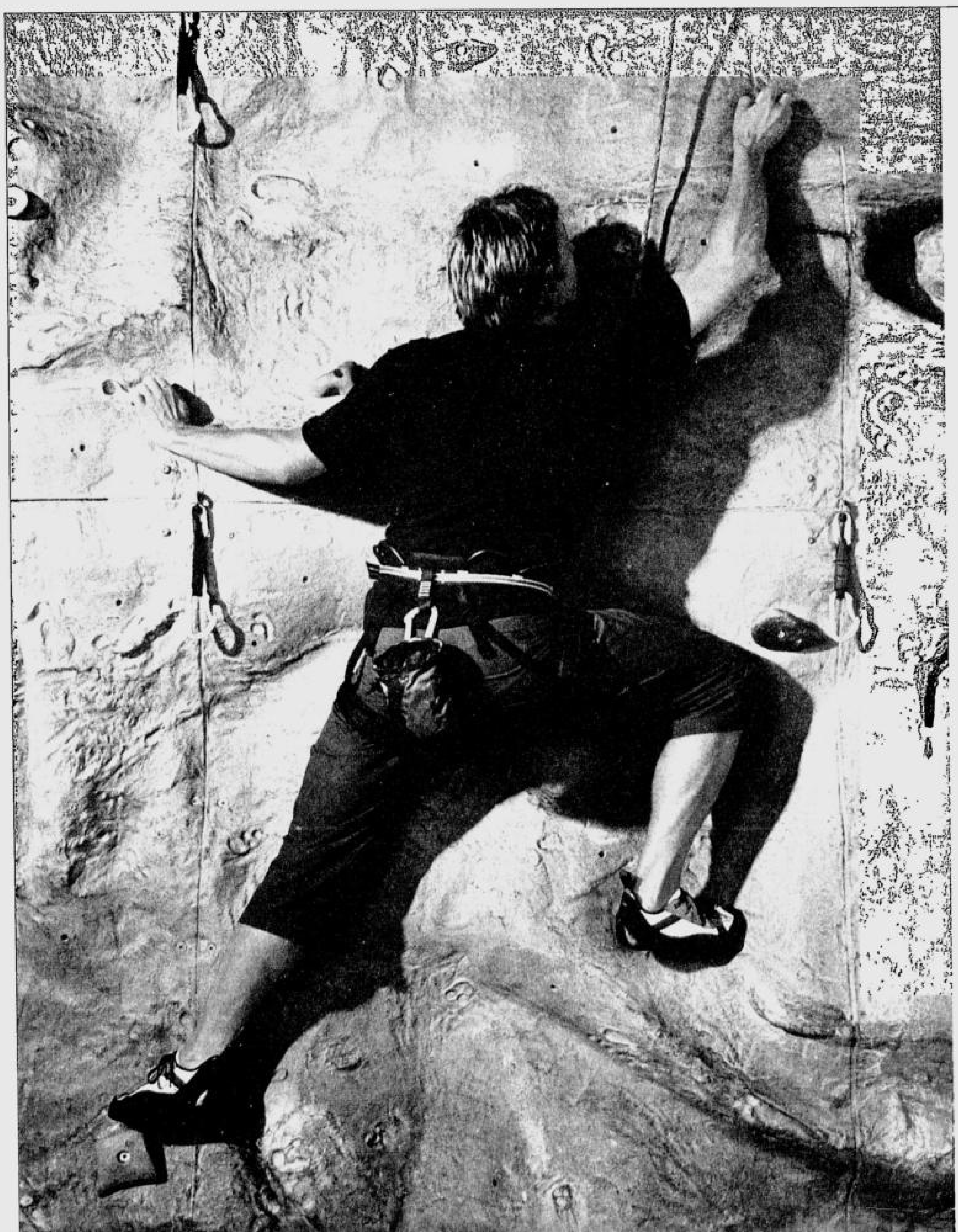
FED/ B4

### Stocks down slightly

STOCKS FELL YESTERDAY, LED by index heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., following a less-than-stellar second-quarter earnings report, traders said.

"The market decline was primarily on disappointment over the earnings," DA Market Securities president Nestor Aguila said.

STOCKS/ B4



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# Gov't workers wait for ax to fall in attrition law

## Revenue agencies to give list of positions to be affected

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL Revenue and the Bureau of Customs were told to submit before the end of the month their respective list of positions to be subject to attrition.

This is in preparation for the imposition of penalties and the granting of monetary incentives to employees and officials of revenue-collecting agencies based on their collection performance under the Lateral Attrition law.

Finance Undersecretary Gaudencio Mendoza Jr. said the positions covered by the Lateral Attrition law should be clearly identified because not all posts in the BIR and the BOC have to do with revenue collection.

The Lateral Attrition law is one of the Arroyo administration's fiscal reform measures.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has instructed officials of the Department of Finance, head agency of the BIR and the BOC, to ensure that the rewards be given on time to overperforming revenue collectors, the DOF said.

"She (President Arroyo) made sure that the Lateral Attrition law is implemented this year, and that rewards are given to those who will meet their targets," Mendoza said.

The finance official added that once the DOF finalizes the revenue collection figures of the BIR and the BOC by February next year, then the monetary rewards will be given by March.

Mendoza said many revenue personnel, especially from the BOC, were excited about the rewards.

The BOC said it had been meeting all its monthly collection target so far.

He added that the government would not hesitate to dismiss revenue personnel who will consistently fall short of their target.

Under the implementing rules and regulation of the Lateral Attrition law, an official or an employee of the BIR or the BOC may be dismissed from service if his or her revenue-collection performance falls short of target by at least 7.5 percent.

Those who will fall short of their respective targets by less than 7.5 percent may be reassigned to a new post by the commissioners, Mendoza said.

Those who will be separated, however, can bring their case to the Civil Service Commission or the Office of the President if a presidential appointee.

The IRR likewise state that the BIR and the BOC, should they meet their targets, would each be entitled to monetary incentives equivalent to 15 percent of their excess collection.

The revenue collection agencies will be entitled to more incentives if they exceed their targets by over 30 percent.

"Rewards and incentives from the Fund shall be apportioned among various units, officials and employees of each bureau in proportion to their relative contribution to the aggregate amount of the excess collection over the targeted amount of tax revenue to be collected by each bureau," according to the IRR.

The BOC is tasked to collect P197 billion in duties and VAT on imports this year, while the BIR is required to turn in P675.4 billion in taxes.

---

# White pepper

**BREAKTIME**

*Conrado R. Banal III*

HUNDREDS OF SUGAR planters from all over the country, who today are no longer the filthy rich hacienderos of bygone years, are still on the doorstep of the BSP.

Yes, they continue to beg the almighty central bank for help, hoping to settle once and for all their problematic 30-year-old, martial-law-era crop loans, for which they used their farmlands as collateral.

Representing the sugar planters is Bacolod-based Planters Against Plunder in the Sugar Industry (PAPSI), one of the biggest—and most aggressive—farm associations in the country.

About a year ago, PAPSI called on this cute administration of Gloriaetta to step into its row with the BSP concerning the loans. It seemed, at that time, that the BSP was ignoring PAPSI's appeal for a compromise.

Under PAPSI's proposal, the BSP would waive portions of the penalties on the old loans, which by now would be more than 30 times their original amounts due to the piling up of the interest, plus the interest on the interest.

The bankrupt Republic Planters Bank originally provided the loans. PNB eventually absorbed RPB, and the loans were effectively paid for by the defunct Central Bank. Serving as collecting agent, PNB at present services the loans for the BSP.

Late last year, the PNB submitted its "counter proposal" to the BSP. Nothing has been heard from the BSP since, except that two months ago, the BSP merely informed the sugar planters that it was still studying the whole thing.

Nobody can blame the planters if they think that the BSP is dragging its foot up to now. For one, why did the BSP need the "counter proposal" from PNB when, in fact, the BSP funds were involved? Come on, it should be up to the BSP.

Unless of course a "secret memorandum," i.e., deal, exists somewhere!

* * *

In an en banc resolution dated Aug. 1, 2006, the Supreme Court already denied, and "vehemently" so, that some justices received gifts from a certain Macario Te, a businessman who is also a board member of PNB.

The resolution said: "No Supreme Court justice has accepted any gift on any occasion from (Te). In the same vein, the Court commiserates with Mr. Te, whose name has been tarnished along with the unfortunate members of this Tribunal."

The accusation actually appeared in an anonymous letter, purportedly sent by a certain "Jose Tinio," in effect accusing the justices of corruption.

But the Supreme Court checked on the supposed sender, even sending a court officer to verify the address (which of course did not exist) and concluded that it was a "fictitious" person.

The Supreme Court en banc said that such a tactic, i.e., the sending of anonymous letters and the circulation of "white paper," only serves to demean the Supreme Court.

But the question is, how come the "letter"—which was sent to the justices of the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeals, plus the senators, the Office of the President, and "media" (no specific media outfit was mentioned)—even merited spots on prime time television news. Hmm...

Thus, the Supreme Court justices believe that somebody is behind what they considered to be black propaganda.

"Let these irresponsible person or persons be WARNED (emphasis not mine) that the Court shall not hesitate to take the necessary steps to protect the integrity and dignity of the Philippine Judiciary when so warranted," the resolution said.

That tells me that the justices actually know the group peppering everybody with those anonymous white paper attacks. Bad news for the group, you think?

* * *

The London based rating agency for banks, the one called "Fitch," gave the local Security Bank a rating of "AA minus," which is perhaps the highest rating that Fitch has given any bank in this country.

(Just between us girls, if you check the Fitch website, you may find banks with "BB" or even "CCC" ratings.)

Well, just in the first half of 2006, Security Bank already matched its earnings for the entire 2005, posting more than P1 billion in net income.

That means, for the sake of our beloved congressmen, stock market investors are looking at the bank to earn some P3 per share in only six months, compared with P2 last year.

Fitch Rating said in its report that Security Bank has taken steps to improve the quality of its assets, mainly through write-offs and recovery.

At the end of 2005, the bank's NPL (non-performing loan) was equivalent to 8.1 percent of total loans, albeit "with sufficient reserves coverage of 132 percent."

By the end of last June, in comparison, the NPL stood at only 4.2 percent.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, the dropping NPL ratio is the trend in other banks as well.

It should tell you that competition in the main business of banking—loans to good borrowers—is going to heat up soon. The banks are getting more aggressive in lending.

* * *

Word has it that the ex-wife (or about-to-be ex) of a handsome devil of a congressman decided that she should just clean up the couple's bank account, aside from piling up credit card debts of more than P1 million.

According to our info from Congress, the high-maintenance woman also managed to raise a lot of eyebrows in the chamber when she attended the recent Sona of Gloriaetta uninvited.

And all that, after she was fired from her job in a financial institution which also filed court cases against her. To think that she is about to lose her powerful married surname, plus a new house and all that financial clout!

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# BCDA criticized for taking over Poro Point

THE BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT Authority (BCDA) appears to have ignored the opinion of its own general counsel, who said that there is no legal basis for the termination of its contract with private investors Bulk Handlers, Inc. (BHI) which operates the Poro Point seaport and bulk terminal as part of the Poro Point Industrial Corporation (PPIC) consortium.

The disclosure came on the heels of the BCDA's armed takeover of the Poro Point seaport and bulk terminal in San Fernando, La Union. The BCDA move came despite a court order stopping the agency and its subsidiary, Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC), from taking over the facility from BHI.

BHI was awarded the contract for the management of the port by BCDA in 1999, following a public bidding. BHI then formed the PPIC consortium together with BCDA and its subsidiary Poro Point Management Corporation (PPMC).

PPIC president Jun Moran said that as early as October 2002, BCDA general counsel Arnel Casanova had submitted a comprehensive legal study which concluded that a termination of the contract with BHI would have no basis in law.

Moran added that Casanova had opposed apparent internal efforts at the BCDA to junk the Poro Point deal. He said a 2004 memorandum by Casanova showed the BCDA counsel's strong opposition to moves by some BCDA officials to terminate the contract.

Moran said the armed take over of the facility has sent strong signals that the BCDA is "willing to disregard court orders and the legal processes to enforce its will on a helpless private investor."

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# RP continues to push tuna exports to Japan, Europe

By Ronnel W. Domingo
and Christine A. Gaylican

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE BENT ON REnewing Philippine exports of smoked tuna to Japan and end a nine-year ban that has cost the local industry a total of some $1 billion.

Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte, who chairs the House committee on aquaculture and fisheries, said that a new trade accord with Tokyo would spur greater market access for all key Philippine merchandise exports, particularly smoked tuna.

"We should spare no effort in bracing a thriving export industry that earn roughly $200 million a year and directly supports the livelihood of more than 150,000 Filipinos," Villafuerte said.

Villafuerte said that since the US Commerce Department and the US Food and Drug Administration have allowed smoked tuna imports from the Philippines, there would be no reason for Japan not to accept cargoes anew.

The provision to renew shipments of smoked tuna is contained in the pending Japan-Philippines Economic Cooperation Agreement.

Villafuerte said that a resumption of exports would boost the economy of Mindanao, where the country's tuna export industry is concentrated.

Tokyo's Department of Health and Welfare has barred the shipments from the Philippines, declaring that the filter-smoking process used to make smoked tuna is a health hazard to Japanese consumers—a claim industry players have dismissed as "bogus."

Japanese authorities have declined requests from the Philippine Department of Agriculture to lift the ban. They insist that carbon monoxide residue is a prohibited food additive under Japanese laws.

Also, the Philippine government is hoping to appeal before the World Trade Organization the European Commission's decision to lower the allowable maximum lead content in fish and other aquaculture products that are shipped to Europe.

The Department of Agriculture, through its attached agency the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, will also turn to the Food and Agriculture Organization to persuade the European Commission to revise the new standard, which is expected to drag down Philippines exports to the continent.

Europe has lowered the allowable maximum lead content in fish and other aquaculture products to 0.02 parts per million (ppm) from 0.05 ppm.

Europe accounts for 42 percent of the Philippines' $400-million annual tuna exports.

In 2005, the EU imported 1.3 billion euros worth of fish and fishery products from Southeast Asia.

Later this month, a team from the European Union will again inspect tuna cannery and other facilities in General Santos City to see if improvements have been put in place to meet European safety and other quality standards.

General Santos City is home to six of the eight tuna exporting canneries in the country.

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# *Globe's IDD promo extended*

By Riza T. Olchondra

GLOBE TELECOM INC. HAS EXtended its P1.00 International Short Messaging Services (ISMS) and $0.00333 per-second IDD call promos until Sept. 3, after obtaining permission from the National Telecommunications Commission.

The ISMS promo allows Globe and Innove subscribers to send a P1.00 international SMS to Singtel Mobile without using any special prefix and requiring no registration.

The IDD promo, meanwhile, allows Globe postpaid/prepaid and Touch Mobile subscribers to place calls to the United States, Canada, Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, China, South Korea, Thailand, Taiwan, Australia, the UK, and Kuwait, on a per-second rate of $0.00333.

The regular per second rate is $0.000667.

For Globe G-Plan subscribers (postpaid), the IDD rate charged on their bill will be based on the applicable foreign exchange rate. But for Globe Handyphone Prepaid and TM subscribers, a flat P7.50 rate per minute shall be deducted from their load.

For the US and Canada, the IDD promo is valid only between 10 p.m. and 5:59 a.m. A subscriber qualifies for the discounted IDD rate upon dialing the required prefix 128-08.

Globe postpaid/prepaid and Touch Mobile subscribers can also avail of the IDD promo when making calls to SingTel Mobile subscribers in Singapore, HK CSL (Hong Kong), Maxis Malaysia and Taiwan Mobile.

A subscriber qualifies for the discounted IDD rate upon dialing the required prefix 128-01.

There is a different rate for callers to Japan and the Middle East. GHP prepaid subscribers who are registered Globe Kababayan members can place calls to the regions at $0.30 per minute.

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# Transco seals ₱20-M deal with distributors

By Abigail L. Ho

THE STATE-RUN NATIONAL TRANSmission Corp. has inked two purchase agreements with Cebu power distributors Mactan Electric Co. and Visayan Electric Co. for P20 million worth of sub-transmission assets.

Meco bought P11.8 million worth of Transco sub-transmission assets, including one 13.8-kilovolt (kV) and seven 69-kV lines spanning 7.95 circuit-kilometers in Mandaue and Mactan, as well as 138 structures.

This agreement, Transco president and chief executive Alan Ortiz said, would allow the power distributor to provide reliable electric service in its franchise area, which included Lapu-Lapu City and the Cordova municipality.

The Meco contract was the seventh for Transco involving a Visayas distribution utility.

The deal with Veco, on the other hand, involved the 6.6-circuit-kilometer-long Banilad-Mandaue 69-kV line worth P8.1 million.

Veco signed its first sub-transmission asset sale agreement with Transco last January 2005, involving P171.75 million worth of assets. This represented the biggest single cash purchase since Transco started selling its sub-transmission assets more than two years ago.

The Aboitiz-owned Veco is the country's second largest distribution utility with more than 275,000 customers in the cities of Cebu, Mandaue and Talisay, and the municipalities of Consolacion, Liloan, Talisay, Minglanilla, Naga and San Fernando in Metro Cebu.

Following the signing of the purchase agreements, Transco would submit these to the Energy Regulatory Commission for approval.

Only after the approval of the regulatory body will Transco be able to transfer the ownership, operation and maintenance of the sub-transmission assets to Meco and Veco.

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# RP banking system seen to cope with Basel 2

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS expects the local banking system to hurdle the stiff risk-based capital adequacy requirements of Basel 2, which shall take effect starting July 1 next year.

Already, the BSP has issued the implementing guidelines for the Basel 2 accord, which maintained the minimum capital adequacy ratio (CAR) requirement of 10 percent, but tightened the capital charges against actual credit exposure, market risk and operational risk.

The guidelines will cover universal banks, commercial banks and their subsidiary banks. Thrift banks, rural banks and quasi-banks will continue to be covered by existing regulations as far as credit risk measurement is concerned.

"The Monetary Board's early approval of the implementing guidelines for Basel 2 underscores our commitment to deep and far-reaching banking reforms to strengthen the banking industry," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

"It also reflects our basic confidence in the fundamental soundness and ability of the industry to make the necessary adjustments to be fully compliant with international standards."

Basel 2 is a revision of Basel 1. The revised framework makes regulatory capital requirements more risk-sensitive. It imposes specific capital charges for credit derivatives, securitization exposure, counter-party risk in the trading book as well as operational risk.

On operational risk, the BSP approved a uniform basic charge of 15 percent of gross income. However, banks that are able to disaggregate income by major business lines may avail of differentiated rates, depending on the business line.

Of all the changes in the revised framework, the operational risk capital requirement is expected to have the most significant impact on banks' overall capital requirements, according to the BSP.

The new framework now also imposes capital charge on foreign currency denominated credit exposure to the Philippine government, or ROPs, which previously were given zero-risk weighting.

The absence in the past of any capital requirement for these high-yield exposures has distorted market incentives and has led to the rapid accumulation of investments in ROPs by banks.

But the adoption of the capital requirement on ROPs will be carried out on a staggered basis in order to minimuze market disruption. One-third of the capital charge will be required for exposures starting July 1, two-thirds starting Jan. 1, 2008, and full capital charge starting Jan. 1, 2009. This is equivalent to an initial capital charge of 3.33 percent, increasing to 6.66 percent and the full 10 percent by 2009.

This is based on the present sovereign credit rating of the Philippines. The BSP said the capital charge may decline in the event that the country gets a sovereign investment grade rating.

Peso-denominated government securities will continue to be zero-risk weighted.

While the implementing guidelines were tailor-fit to suit Philippine conditions, Tetangco said these did not compromise on the substance of reforms.

"We fully realize that Basel 2 changes in a fundamental way how our banks operate in the future and, in turn, how we supervise them as regulator," Tetangco said. "We urge our banks to step up to the challenge and take a proactive stance of building genuinely robust and enduring financial institutions rather than just looking at the reforms as a compliance issue."

# 5 Japanese firms to invest in Cebu

## CIPC says IT companies will start small, help local universities

**By Irene R. Sino Cruz**
*Inquirer Visayas*

CEBU CITY—FIVE JAPANESE INFORMATION technology companies have expressed interest in expanding their operations to Cebu, Cebu Investment Promotion Center (CIPC) managing director Joel Mari S. Yu said.

The Tokyo-based companies were identified as Bell Net Co. Ltd., ISFnet Co. Ltd., Sahara Systems Japan, Data Application Co. Ltd. and CyberTech Corp.

While some of these companies plan to set up only small operations here, Yu said this was ideal for Cebu since it has yet to build its capability to serve their skills requirement.

"We don't really have the capability to provide 2,000 programmers, for example," he said.

Attracting these companies would help Cebu show that it can handle IT investments, other than call centers and business process outsourcing, Yu said.

Bell Net, a software engineering company, is engaged in such IT services as computer system operational support, helpdesk and desktop service, IT consulting and educational service, streaming site production and digital broadcast content production.

It has already set up a temporary office in Cebu, with a P10 million capitalization, 10 full time staff and 160 contract IT engineers and designers, Yu said.

Bell Net chief executive officer Toshio Osada, sales director Masaru Ajito and project division manager Nino Perol (a Filipino IT engineer) met with Cebu City Mayor Tomas R. Osmeña during the latter's visit to Tokyo last June.

The company is looking for IT engineers with Java and C++ language skills and technical support and maintenance engineers for desktop with Japanese language level 2 skills, he said.

The ISFnet, with a capitalization of $1.6 million and 1,600 employees, offers consulting, system design, software development, hardware, computer system management and other IT-related services.

The company plans to hire and train engineers for three years and set up a training school here later, he said.

The Sahara Systems is engaged in software consulting, IT recruiting and software products.

Yu said the company has asked for CIPC's assistance in setting up partnerships with different universities in Cebu to develop Unix (or Uniplexed Information and Computing Service, a computer operating system) and Japanese language courses. The company plans to come up with four-year Unix course and hire qualified graduates of this course.

The company is offering its Unix box for free to different Cebu universities in return for acknowledgement of their contribution, he said.

Yu said CIPC is getting in touch with different schools and universities in Cebu and arranging meetings with different government and nongovernment agencies involved in IT development. Sahara Systems executives will be coming in September or October this year, he added.

The Data Application Co. is a provider of various products including communication middleware and other IT support services. Its core business is network systems development. It has 50 employees and has a capitalization of 200 million yen.

Data Application president and chief executive officer Keita Hashimoto, corporate strategic planning and administration director Sadakazu Nagai and manager Shigeru Yoshida met with Osmeña and the Cebu City delegation in Tokyo last June 26.

According to Yu, the company plans to start its project here by October this year.

The CyberTech Corp., which has an 80-million yen capitalization, is involved in the development of the world's first commercial XML native database Cyber Luxeon and the development of XML database using middleware.

XML stands for extensible markup language, a simple and flexible text format designed for use in large-scale electronic publishing. It is also used in the exchange of data on the Web.

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SEA clams are cultured in some gulf areas in Davao

DENNIS JAY SANTOS/ INQUIRER MINDANAO

# Plant rubber trees, governor urges OFWs

**By Charlie C. Señase**
*Inquirer Mindanao*

COTABATO CITY—NORTH COTAbato Gov. Manny Piñol has called on overseas Filipino workers to consider planting rubber as an alternative source of livelihood.

"There's easy money and a bright future that await those engaged in rubber production," he said during the recent graduation ceremonies for rubber technology students at the University of Southern Mindanao in Kabacan, North Cotabato.

Piñol cited his province as an example of how rubber can lead to economic development.

He said from being the country's fifth poorest province in 1998, North Cotabato moved forward to become the country's 29th most progressive province, as ranked by the National Statistics and Coordinating Board (NSCB), because it is one of the country's biggest producer of rubber.

He said as the rubber industry grows, its effects would also be felt even by those not actually engaged in planting.

"A million hectares planted to rubber in the country would mean 500,000 news jobs in the plantations alone. If we add the skills needed to produce farm implements like tapping knives, rings, etc., the count could easily run to 1.5 million jobs," Piñol said.

Based on current market prices, semi-processed rubber can be sold at P42 a kilo.

This means that a hectare of rubber plantation stands to earn up to P80,000 a year based on estimates by the Department of Agriculture.

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# Manila port take up

FOR THE SEVENTH time this year, the Port of Manila under Customs Collector Horacio P. Suansing has exceeded its monthly collection target in July.

The Port of Manila collected P5.7 billion in customs duties and taxes in July, 2.68 percent higher than its target of P5.4 billion.

The latest figures brought the Port of Manila's total collections since January to P38.6 billion, well above the target of P36.4 billion.

The Port of Manila accounts for 36 percent of the revenue collection of the Bureau of Customs.

The 13 other customs districts account for the remaining 64 percent.

Suansing attributed the Port of Manila's collection performance to close monitoring of shipments bound for export processing zones and customs bonded warehouses to prevent smuggling, the auction of seized and abandoned cargoes, and toughness in dealing with importers with arrears.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

*Supply and Delivery of 24 Port Switches, GBIC Module and VDSL Network Bridge Extender*
[Reference No.: PB060510-EL0083]

1. The *National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO)* through the *CY2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board*, intends to apply the sum of *PhP 4,410,022.00* being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply and Delivery of 24 Port Switches, GBIC Module and VDSL Network Bridge Extender**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *ICT Accessories*. Delivery of the GOODS is required *within thirty (30) calendar days from receipt of approved Purchase Order*. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/ sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, starting August 07, 2006 to September 01, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00)*. The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative
5. The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on August 21, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the same address below. Requests for clarifications on the bid documents should be submitted before the Pre-Bid Conference.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00 p.m. of September 04, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms and amount:

| Form of Security | Amount |
|---|---|
| 1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit | 1% of ABC |
| 2. Bank guarantee | 1.5% of ABC |
| 3. Surety bond ( 2.5% OF ABC) | 2.5% of ABC |
| 4. Foreign government guarantee | 100% of ABC |

or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bid opening shall be on September 04, 2006/2:00 p.m. at the *Admin Conference Room, same address below*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

*National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region*
*Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman*
*MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.*
*Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road*
*Diliman, Quezon City*
*Tel. No.: (632) 981-2235 / Fax No. (632) 922-8432*
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(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
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# CAP overseer seeks court nod on rehab plan

## More 'realistic and conservative' estimates

**By Elizabeth L. Sanchez**

THE REHABILITATION OVERSEER of embattled College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP) has urged the Makati Regional Trial Court to approve the pre-need company's 2006 revised rehabilitation plan, which was believed to be more "realistic and conservative."

In a manifestation filed before Branch 61 of the Makati RTC, CAP rehabilitation receiver Mamerto Marcelo Jr. asked the court to approve and immediately implement CAP's revised rehabilitation plan.

CAP's case has been pending before the Makati trial court since it filed for rehabilitation last year.

For the first time in many months, a hearing was conducted on Monday by Judge Cesar Untalan of Branch 149, which recently took over Branch 61 as a rehabilitation court, to clarify CAP's revised rehabilitation plan and generate comments from concerned parties by the end of this month.

Under CAP's 2006 rehabilitation plan, CAP will be less reliant on foreign equity to boost the liquidity of its trust fund, or the pool of assets to be used to settle the company's liabilities to plan holders.

CAP's receiver also asked the pre-need firm to scale down its sales projections to reflect its true financial position. CAP's revised rehabilitation plan is based on reduced plan holders of 403,000 from 780,000 last year as a result of those who terminated their plans.

The revised plan has the following features: streamlined operations; introduction of "fixed growth" plans as viable replacements for traditional or open-ended plans; sale of assets such as shares in Bank of Commerce, bonds linked to the Metro Rail Transit system, and existing lots and condominiums; maximization of resources; shareholders' contributions; equity infusion; sale of subsidiaries, and the restructuring of corporate debts.

Under streamlined operations, CAP said it has reduced costs by P148.2 million this year as a result of the closure of detached marketing offices and the consolidation of several finance processing centers. CAP expects to generate additional savings as a result of the continued streamlining of operations.

Under the rehabilitation plan, CAP will also offer fixed value plans to replace traditional plans held by plan holders. Depending on the type of the plans issued, CAP expects to pay benefits under what it calls "fixed growth plans" worth P12,000 to P140,000 over a four-year period. The benefits were computed using tuition levels in 1992 with a 10-percent compounded yearly increase up to 2002. CAP also plans to pay a return on investment equivalent to 100 percent of the gross contract price to plan holders contractually entitled to these. Payments will start within six months after the approval of the rehabilitation plan.

CAP also hopes to raise P10.3 billion for its trust fund from the sale of its 19.7-percent stake in Bank of Commerce (P1.02 billion), the development and sale of real estate projects (P4.6 billion), the recovery of investments in Fil-Estate Management Inc. (P1.86 billion) and a possible equity buyout by the government of MRT bonds in 2009 (P2.8 billion).

The revised plan is also hoping to raise P103 million from major shareholders in the form of loans and subscriptions.

CAP is also planning to sell its equity in Comnet, CAP Life Insurance Corp., CAP Realty Inc. and CAP Health Maintenance Organization Inc. and its affiliate Fil-Estate Land. The sale of these interests may generate P324 million.

CAP filed its petition for corporate rehabilitation last August 2005.

# *BDO sweeps Asiamoney country awards*

BANCO DE ORO UNIVERSAL BANK (BDO) and its wholly owned investment banking subsidiary BDO Capital and Investment Corp. (BCIC) were recently cited by Asiamoney magazine as the best in their respective fields for 2005.

BDO Universal Bank was named "Best Domestic Bank," while BCIC received the "Best Equity House" and "Best Debt House" awards. This was a first-ever sweep of all country awards by a single banking group.

In order to come up with the best domestic bank, best equity house and best debt house in each country, Asiamoney's editorial team conducts a period of intensive market research, discussions with market experts, investors, business advisors and top-ranked research analysts.

As of March 31, BDO was the country's 5th largest bank with total assets of P239 billion, and net loans of P87 billion. In terms of liquid assets, BDO ranked the fourth largest with P120 billion.

BDO Capital is the country's fifth largest investment house, with total assets of P1.3 billion as of March 31. BCIC has led and participated in major capital markets transactions for both the government and private corporations in 2005. Total combined debt issue and total equity issue was P132.5 billion in 2005.

Asiamoney is a leading publication in the region, providing coverage and analysis of the financial and investment markets in Asia Pacific countries.

# Gov't to intensify fight . . .

From page B1

the Philippine government harder: it is harder to implement reforms, to show results, and to win the support of the people," the government said in the blueprint.

Activities under the first component—the enhancement of the services of the Office of the Ombudsman—include the formulation of a training program for its personnel, electronic linkup of its offices nationwide, purchase of necessary equipment for surveillance, and establishment of a mediation system that will help settle disputes that do not necessarily need legal action.

The second component, enhancement of the DOF's capacity to address corruption and tax evasion, will focus on the development of three programs: the Revenue Integrity Protection Service (RIPS), the Run After Tax Evaders (RATE) and the Run After The Smugglers (RATS).

RIPS is where the DOF's investigators conduct lifestyle checks and files charges against suspected corrupt officials and employees of revenue-collecting agencies, especially the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs.

RATE is the program where the DOF and the BIR are supposed to file charges against tax evaders, especially high-profile individuals, to encourage the public to religiously fulfill their tax obligations. RATS is the program where the DOF and the BOC file charges against suspected smugglers.

Under the government's plan, the number of RIPS, RATE and RATS cases to be filed by authorities should increase by 371 percent from only 66 last year to a minimum of 293 next year.

Of the 293, the government should file at least 50 cases against public servants who failed the lifestyle check, 48 against suspected smugglers, and 195 against suspected tax evaders.

The government said in the TCP that its objective was to "accelerate the pace of sustainable and continuous efforts to stamp out corruption, plug revenue leaks, increase tax collection and channel resources to poverty reduction programs such as health care, education and social services."

# Stocks down slightly

From page B1

The benchmark 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index closed down 18.53 points, or 0.8 percent, at 2,349.22, after losing 0.5 percent Tuesday.

PLDT, the country's biggest telecommunications group by assets, fell 3 percent to P2,015 after posting on Tuesday a 7.9-percent on-year decline in second-quarter net profit due to foreign exchange losses and higher depreciation costs.

PLDT may also be suffering from comparison to rival Globe Telecom, which last week posted a 77-percent on-year rise in second-quarter net profit.

Tuesday saw a block sale of 3.2 million shares of Metrobank. The stock closed up 1.3 percent at P38.

Decliners led gainers 43 to 40, while 58 stocks were unchanged.

Analysts said Tuesday's decision by the Federal Reserve to leave key US interest rates unchanged was widely expected, but created uncertainty over the direction of US rates moving forward.

"There's still the specter of another US rate hike looming since inflation worries remain," said Westlink Global Equities chair Rommel Macapagal. *AP*

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# Fed ends . . .

From page B1

earlier this year, partly reflecting a gradual cooling of the housing market and the lagged effects of increases in interest rates and energy prices," the FOMC said.

While inflation readings had been "elevated" in recent months, the panel said, price pressures "seem likely to moderate over time" because of past rate increases and other factors restraining demand.

"Nonetheless, the committee judges that some inflation risks remain," added the FOMC, leaving itself some scope to resume its campaign of rate hikes if needed in the months ahead.

"The extent and timing of any additional firming that may be needed to address these risks will depend on the evolution of the outlook for both inflation and economic growth, as implied by incoming information."

The decision to suspend the run of 17 consecutive hikes was not unanimous. One of the 10 FOMC members—Richmond Federal Reserve chief Jeffrey Lacker—voted to increase the fed funds rate by another 25 basis points.

Wall Street share prices erased earlier gains to close lower on the Fed's indication that it would remain vigilant against inflation, even as it holds rates steady for now.

Asian stocks also fell yesterday despite a pause in US interest rate hikes as worries over a slowdown in the world's largest economy hit exporters such as Japan's Sony Corp.

The dollar, however, pulled up from two-month lows against a basket of major currencies, strengthening on a wave of short covering after the Fed move.

Oil prices were barely changed, but gold fell due to the dollar rebound.

"The question is whether the US economy is heading for a hard landing or a soft landing," said Jason Hwang, a strategist at South Korea's Woori Investment and Securities.

"I think that if oil prices retreat a bit, and we see no (US) interest rate increases in the second half, a soft landing is more likely," he said. *AFP, Reuters*

# BSP seen . . .

From page B1

BSP is more cautious," Cuyegkeng said.

He noted that second-round effects through increased transport fares could trigger another round of higher inflation expectations and price adjustments.

The economist said other near-term concerns that were preventing the BSP from shifting away from a steady monetary policy included a politically volatile period related to impeachment and Charter change initiatives as well as a seasonally weak peso in the third quarter.

The peso was hardly inspired by the Fed's move, opening at 51.42 and hitting an intraday low of 51.50 before closing at 51.37 against the dollar yesterday, almost flat from Tuesday's finish of 51.365.

Equitable PCIBank chief strategist Marcelo Ayes said the market had already factored in the pause in the Fed's monetary tightening in August but was still jittery over prospects of further hikes.

"Their core inflation is high, but it's the opposite in the case of the Philippines," he said.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas expects inflation to taper off in the second semester and return to the targeted range of 4-5 percent by next year.

He said he would like to be biased for a stronger peso but noted that the local currency was consolidating at current levels as was therefore having difficulties rising past the week's high of 51.33:$1.

Ayes said the local currency would likely continue its consolidation between 51.25 and 51.70, but if it appreciated past 51.25, the market would test the 51:$1.

The third quarter is usually a weak season for the peso because the country's importation peaks at this time.

## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 9, 2006)

| STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **FINANCIAL** | | | | | |
| **BANKS** | | | | | |
| Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc. | 5.6 | 5.7 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 15,000 |
| Banco de Oro Univ. Bank | 31.5 | 32.5 | 31.5 | 32.5 | 221,900 |
| Bank of the Phil. Islands | 53.5 | 53.5 | 53 | 53.5 | 1,274,000 |
| China Banking Corp. | 705 | 710 | 705 | 710 | 3,280 |
| Citystate Savings Bank | 20.25 | 20.25 | 20.25 | 20.25 | 400 |
| Export and Ind. Bank A | 0.39 | 0.4 | 0.38 | 0.39 | 3,540,000 |
| Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 80.5 | 80.5 | 79 | 79 | 86,800 |
| Metropolitan Bank & Trust | 37.5 | 38 | 37.5 | 38 | 57,300 |
| Philippine National Bank | 35 | 35 | 34.5 | 34.5 | 23,000 |
| Phil. Savings Bank | 39 | 42 | 39 | 42 | 17,100 |
| Rizal Comm. Banking Corp. | 17 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 4,000 |
| Security Bank Corp. | 48.5 | 49 | 48 | 49 | 23,700 |
| Union Bank of the Phil. | 45.5 | 45.5 | 45.5 | 45.5 | 16,000 |
| **OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS** | | | | | |
| Bankard Inc. | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.65 | 0.65 | 30,000 |
| Citiseconline.Com. Inc. | 1.82 | 1.82 | 1.82 | 1.82 | 40,000 |
| First Metro Invest. Corp. | 29 | 30 | 29 | 30 | 8,500 |
| Manulife Financial Corp. | 1500 | 1600 | 1500 | 1600 | 350 |
| Sun Life Financial Inc. | 1930 | 1930 | 1930 | 1930 | 100 |
| Ivantage Corp. | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1,283,000 |
| **INDUSTRIAL** | | | | | |
| **ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER** | | | | | |
| First Gen Corp. | 41.5 | 42 | 41.5 | 42 | 523,200 |
| First Phil Hldgs Corp. | 42.5 | 44 | 42.5 | 44 | 397,700 |
| Manila Electric Co. A | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 15.5 | 27,300 |
| Manila Electric Co. B | 24.75 | 25 | 24.75 | 25 | 501,900 |
| Manila Water Co. Inc. | 8.9 | 9.2 | 8.9 | 9.2 | 7,373,000 |
| Petron Corp. | 4.25 | 4.25 | 4.2 | 4.25 | 1,049,000 |
| East Asia Power Res. Corp. | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 310,000 |
| Trans-Asia Oil and Energy | 0.93 | 0.93 | 0.92 | 0.93 | 690,000 |
| **FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| Ginebra San Miguel Inc. | 23 | 23 | 23 | 23 | 80,000 |
| Jollibee Foods Corp. | 33 | 33 | 32.5 | 32.5 | 53,300 |
| Pancake House Inc. | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.6 | 400,000 |
| Roxas Holdings Inc. | 3.75 | 3.8 | 3.75 | 3.8 | 174,000 |
| San Miguel Corp. A | 65 | 65 | 64.5 | 65 | 73,300 |
| San Miguel Corp. B | 73.5 | 73.5 | 73 | 73.5 | 61,800 |
| Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 22,000 |
| Universal Robina Corp. | 19 | 19 | 18.75 | 19 | 925,200 |
| Vitarich Corp. | 0.205 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 0.205 | 300,000 |
| **CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Southeast Asian Cement | 0.27 | 0.28 | 0.27 | 0.28 | 1,180,000 |
| Engineering Equip. Inc. | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1.6 | 1,889,000 |
| Fortune Cement Corp. | 1.42 | 1.42 | 1.42 | 1.42 | 30,000 |
| Holcim Philippines Inc. | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 1,000 |
| **CHEMICALS** | | | | | |
| Corro-Coat Inc. | 3.15 | 3.15 | 3.15 | 3.15 | 10,000 |
| **DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS** | | | | | |
| Global Equities Inc. | 0.41 | 0.46 | 0.39 | 0.45 | 156,500,000 |
| Picop Resources Inc. | 0.075 | 0.08 | 0.075 | 0.08 | 11,800,000 |
| **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| Abacus Con Res & Hdg A | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 0.008 | 40,000,000 |
| Ayala Corp. | 427.5 | 427.5 | 417.5 | 420 | 59,080 |
| Aboitiz Equity Ventures | 5 | 5.1 | 5 | 5.1 | 193,000 |
| Ajo.Net Holdings Inc. | 0.027 | 0.028 | 0.027 | 0.028 | 27,500,000 |
| A. Soriano Corp. | 1.86 | 1.86 | 1.86 | 1.86 | 461,000 |
| APC Group Inc. | 0.215 | 0.215 | 0.215 | 0.215 | 300,000 |
| Alcorn Gold Res. Corp. | 0.009 | 0.009 | 0.009 | 0.009 | 244,000,000 |
| Anglo Phil Holdings Corp. | 0.93 | 0.93 | 0.93 | 0.93 | 50,000 |
| Baguio Gold Holdings Corp. | 3 | 3 | 2.75 | 2.8 | 53,000 |
| Balabac Resources & Hldgs | 1.02 | 1.04 | 1.02 | 1.04 | 200,000 |
| Benpres Holdings Corp. | 1.08 | 1.1 | 1.08 | 1.08 | 674,000 |
| DMCI Holdings Inc. | 4.35 | 4.35 | 4.25 | 4.3 | 262,000 |
| Filinvest Dev. Corp. | 2.6 | 2.65 | 2.6 | 2.65 | 1,006,000 |
| J.G. Summit Holdings Inc. | 6.1 | 6.1 | 6.1 | 6.1 | 50,000 |
| Mabuhay Holdings Corp. | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 0.15 | 200,000 |
| Prime Orion Phils. Inc. | 0.195 | 0.2 | 0.19 | 0.195 | 2,090,000 |
| Solid Group Inc | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.55 | 160,000 |
| Sinophil Corp. | 0.12 | 0.12 | 0.115 | 0.12 | 7,100,000 |
| South China Resources Inc. | 0.92 | 0.95 | 0.92 | 0.95 | 500,000 |
| Unioil Res. & Holdings Co | 0.09 | 0.115 | 0.085 | 0.115 | 81,500,000 |
| Wellex Industries Inc. | 0.13 | 0.135 | 0.125 | 0.135 | 3,850,000 |
| **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| Ayala Land Inc. | 13.5 | 13.75 | 13.5 | 13.5 | 20,636,600 |
| Araneta Properties Inc. | 0.34 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 0.34 | 10,000 |
| Belle Corp. | 1.02 | 1.02 | 1.02 | 1.02 | 3,651,000 |
| Crown Equities Inc. | 0.32 | 0.34 | 0.32 | 0.33 | 5,390,000 |
| Cebu Holdings Inc. | 2.12 | 2.14 | 2.12 | 2.14 | 10,000 |
| C&P Homes Inc. | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 25,000 |
| Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.26 | 0.28 | 0.26 | 0.28 | 25,860,000 |
| Empire East Land Inc. | 0.46 | 0.47 | 0.46 | 0.46 | 530,000 |
| Ever-Gotesco Resources | 0.043 | 0.049 | 0.043 | 0.048 | 49,800,000 |
| Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.38 | 1.38 | 1.34 | 1.34 | 715,000 |
| Gotesco Land Inc. | 0.09 | 0.115 | 0.09 | 0.11 | 6,200,000 |
| Gotesco Land Inc. B | 0.095 | 0.12 | 0.09 | 0.115 | 3,450,000 |
| Interport Res. B | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 0.0065 | 15,000,000 |
| Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc. | 0.82 | 0.82 | 0.82 | 0.82 | 1,030,000 |
| Kuok Phil. Properties | 0.225 | 0.225 | 0.225 | 0.225 | 210,000 |
| Megaworld Corp. | 1.52 | 1.52 | 1.5 | 1.52 | 4,391,000 |
| Metro Pacific Corp. | 0.24 | 0.245 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 3,690,000 |
| MRC Allied Ind. Inc. | 0.27 | 0.29 | 0.27 | 0.29 | 2,980,000 |
| Robinsons Land Corp. | 12 | 12 | 11.75 | 12 | 317,900 |
| Phil Realty and Holdings | 0.42 | 0.43 | 0.41 | 0.43 | 13,530,000 |
| SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 8 | 8 | 7.9 | 8 | 2,228,000 |
| **SERVICE** | | | | | |
| **MEDIA** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 17 | 17.25 | 17 | 17 | 21,100 |
| Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp. | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 95,000 |
| **TELECOMMUNICATIONS** | | | | | |
| Digital Telecom Phils Inc. | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.32 | 1.34 | 686,000 |
| Globe Telecom Inc. | 1030 | 1035 | 1025 | 1030 | 23,950 |
| Pilipino Tel. Corp. | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.55 | 3.6 | 3,303,000 |
| Phil. Long Dis Tel Co. | 2040 | 2040 | 2000 | 2010 | 215,730 |
| **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY** | | | | | |
| Boulevard Holdings Inc. | 0.175 | 0.175 | 0.175 | 0.175 | 420,000 |
| Imperial Res. | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 800,000 |
| Ionics Inc. | 2.1 | 2.18 | 2.1 | 2.12 | 229,000 |
| Island Info and Tech Inc. | 0.043 | 0.043 | 0.043 | 0.043 | 400,000 |
| ISM Communications Corp. | 0.0525 | 0.055 | 0.0525 | 0.0525 | 1,300,000 |
| Music Semiconductors Corp. | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.18 | 1.2 | 192,000 |
| Philweb Corp. | 0.03 | 0.031 | 0.03 | 0.031 | 173,400,000 |
| **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Asian Terminals Inc. | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 33,000 |
| Int'l Container Term'l Sv | 14.5 | 14.5 | 14.5 | 14.5 | 451,600 |
| Keppel Phils. Marine Inc. | 0.87 | 0.87 | 0.87 | 0.87 | 80,000 |
| Lorenzo Shipping Corp. | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 1.26 | 100,000 |
| **HOTEL & LEISURE** | | | | | |
| Acesite Phils Hotel Corp. | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 1,471,000 |
| Leisure & Resorts Corp. | 1.38 | 1.38 | 1.34 | 1.34 | 880,000 |
| Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc. | 0.26 | 0.27 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 850,000 |
| Waterfront Phils. Inc. | 0.53 | 0.53 | 0.52 | 0.52 | 1,410,000 |
| **EDUCATION** | | | | | |
| Far Eastern University | 1050 | 1050 | 980 | 980 | 460 |
| **DIVERSIFIED SERVICES** | | | | | |
| Macroasia Corp. | 2.08 | 2.08 | 2.04 | 2.08 | 318,000 |
| Paxys Inc. | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 187,100 |
| **MINING & OIL** | | | | | |
| **MINING** | | | | | |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. A | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.65 | 3.75 | 1,885,000 |
| Apex Mining Co. Inc. B | 3.75 | 3.85 | 3.65 | 3.85 | 1,230,000 |
| Abra Mining & Industrial | 0.0085 | 0.0085 | 0.008 | 0.0085 | 37,000,000 |
| Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't | 7.6 | 7.6 | 7.6 | 7.6 | 367,000 |
| Dizon Copper Silver Mines | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 10,000 |
| Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 13,870,000 |
| Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B | 0.3 | 0.31 | 0.29 | 0.31 | 4,710,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.024 | 0.025 | 0.024 | 0.024 | 194,900,000 |
| Manila Mining Corp. B | 0.029 | 0.029 | 0.028 | 0.029 | 31,100,000 |
| Omico Corp. | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.0095 | 0.01 | 381,000,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. A | 4.3 | 4.35 | 4.2 | 4.35 | 9,309,000 |
| Philex Mining Corp. B | 4.35 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.4 | 4,047,000 |
| Semirara Mining Corp. | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 36,000 |
| United Paragon Mining Co. | 0.52 | 0.53 | 0.52 | 0.53 | 2,060,000 |
| Vulcan Ind'l | 0.52 | 0.55 | 0.52 | 0.55 | 700,000 |
| **OIL** | | | | | |
| Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.29 | 480,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. A | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 110,000,000 |
| Oriental Pet. & Min. B | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 200,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. A | 1.32 | 1.34 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1,126,000 |
| The Philodrill Corp. B | 1.34 | 1.34 | 1.32 | 1.34 | 480,000 |
| Petroenergy Res. Corp. | 16.5 | 16.5 | 15.75 | 16 | 2,115,800 |
| **PREFERRED** | | | | | |
| Ayala Corp. Pref. B | 102 | 102 | 102 | 102 | 5,500 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series J | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 100 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series P | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 800 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series T | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 100 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series W | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 2,000 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series X | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 1,200 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y | 10.75 | 10.75 | 10.75 | 10.75 | 100 |
| PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 1,000 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 2,000 |
| PLDT 10% Pref Series Bb | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 500 |
| **WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.** | | | | | |
| ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr) | 17.25 | 17.25 | 17.25 | 17.25 | 550,800 |

## CURRENCIES

| August 9, 2006<br>Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.778816 | 1.000000 | 51.3930 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.006759 | 0.008679 | 0.4460 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.486293 | 1.908400 | 98.0784 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.100155 | 0.128599 | 6.6091 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.635664 | 0.816193 | 41.9466 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.694194 | 0.891345 | 45.8089 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.495083 | 0.635687 | 32.6699 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.592121 | 0.760283 | 39.0732 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 2.065990 | 2.652731 | 136.3318 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.207667 | 0.266645 | 13.7037 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.493515 | 0.633673 | 32.5664 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000086 | 0.000110 | 0.0057 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.020702 | 0.026582 | 1.3661 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.212044 | 0.272264 | 13.9925 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.284000 | 65.9886 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.253686 | 0.325733 | 16.7404 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.356944 | 0.458316 | 23.5542 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134022 | 0.172084 | 8.8439 |
| India | Rupee | 0.016759 | 0.021519 | 1.1059 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.212501 | 0.272851 | 14.0226 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.071639 | 0.091984 | 4.7273 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.487308 | 0.625704 | 32.1568 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.126415 | 0.162317 | 8.3420 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.012942 | 0.016617 | 0.8540 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.114134 | 0.146548 | 7.5315 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000808 | 0.001038 | 0.0533 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.108927 | 0.139862 | 7.1879 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.015003 | 0.019264 | 0.9900 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.023738 | 0.030479 | 1.5664 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000363 | 0.000466 | 0.0239 |

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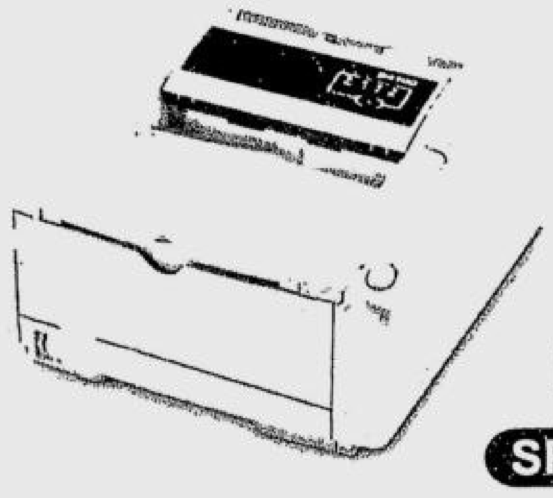

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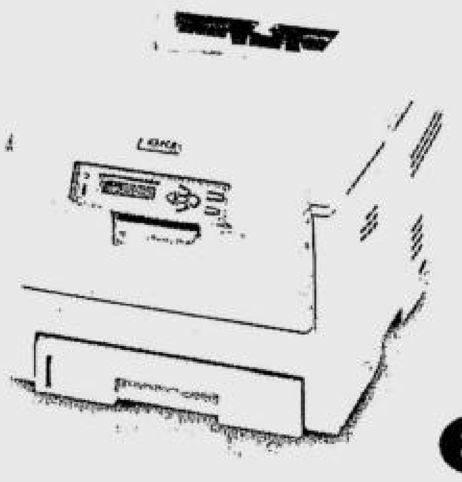

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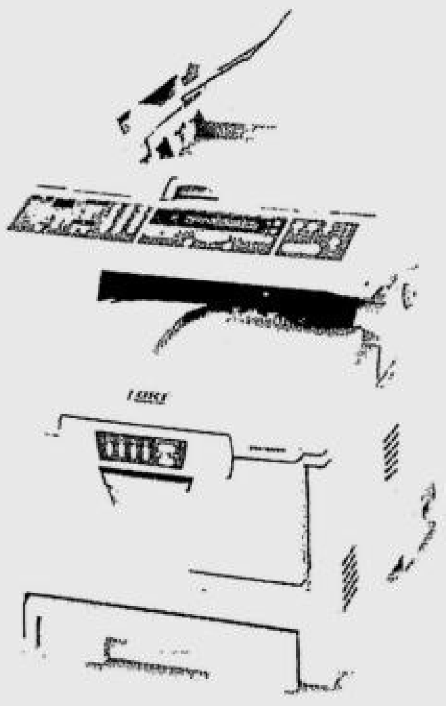

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Editor Aries Espinosa

# Anixter offers affordable VOIP ready, scalable phone system

ANIXTER THE WORLD'S LARGEST distributor of communication products and an authorized distributor of Nortel in the Philippines and the Asean region, announces a special promotional offering to help local small and medium businesses (SMBs) modernize their phone systems to be able to meet the telephony demands of their growing businesses.

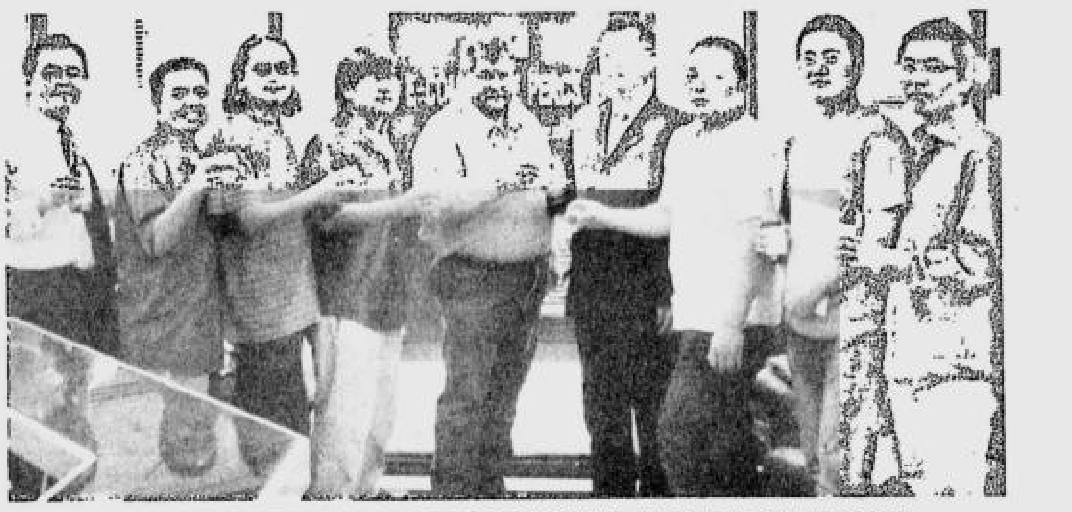
For a minimal investment of US$1,234 or approximately P64,168 that is tax-inclusive, Philippine SMBs and branch offices can purchase a telephony startup kit, which includes the Nortel Business Communications Manager (BCM) 50, two analog trunks, eight digital phones and auto attendant. This limited offer is good until Nov. 15. Those who place their orders before Sept. 30 will also receive free voice mail worth US$400 for eight users.

"Nortel and Anixter have bundled this special business telephony offering to provide local SMBs a business-in-a-box solution that combines the best elements of high-end IP PBX phone systems, cutting-edge convergence solutions and robust data networking for a very affordable price," said Mandy Pascual, enterprise director, Nortel Philippines.

The Nortel BCM50 helps reduce communications cost by combining separate voice and data services into one network, enriches customer experience through an auto attendant and voice mail features, and boosts employee productivity by enabling online collaboration inside and outside the office.

"Small and medium enterprises in the Philippines can now have the functionality of a big company phone system without a big-money investment, using Nortel's BCM50. And they can also do it in a minimal timeframe, thanks to Anixter's regional inventory supply," said Antonio Flores, Nortel business manager for Anixter Asia.

Interested parties can contact Anixter Philippines through tel. number 845-2247, e-mail nortel.asia@anixter.com, or visit http://bcm50.anixtersoluciones.com/en/ for more information about the Nortel BCM50 promo.



**ECPI , HANEOLSOFT CELEBRATE JOINT VENTURE PARTNERSHIP**

New multinational online game development firm E-Commerce Percs Inc (Ecpi) and top Korean online game developer HaneolSoft Co Ltd raise a toast to celebrate their joint venture partnership at the E-Commerce Percs Office in Pasig City. Leading the toast are Ecpi chairman of the board of advisors Robert M. Wachtel (fifth from left) and HaneolSoft president/CEO H.W. Do (fourth from right). Also in photo are (from left): Ecpi director for corporate and public relations Rod C. Estrera; Ecpi game developer John Melchor D. Valimento; Ecpi game development architects Ranulf J. Goss and Eric Cesar E. Vidal, Jr.; HaneolSoft directors Yujin Kim and Jung-U Woo; and Koresa D & P Co Ltd international sales manager Ki-Hyun Kim.

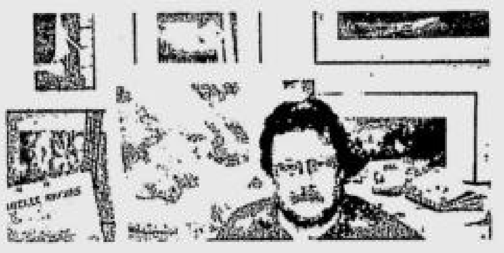
### GRANPRIX ECONOTELS-PASAY OPENS

In a simple launching ceremonies held recently, GranPrix officially opened to the travelling public the first of its chain of affordably-priced and conveniently appointed hotel located at the Victory Bus Lines compound in Edsa, Pasay City. Photo shows (from left) a long staying guest Hon. Myron J. Nunez, Sr., National Executive Vice President - Barangay Councilor League of the Philippines, Marivic del Pilar - Director, Jan Vincent Kierulf - chair, Lucille Kierulf, director, representing owning company All Day Residences, Inn and Suites and assisted by Pasay Councilors' Jose Antonio Roxas and Onie Bayona, respectively. GranPrix Econotels is managed by Izones Management and Marketing Company.

### NEW BOOKS ON PHILIPPINE BIOLOGICAL WONDERS

The April 22 Earth Day celebration saw the launching of new books by Haribon Foundation, the country's pioneer environment organization. The event took place at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and was attended by people from the academe, media, corporations, NGOs and the government. For more than 3 decades now, Haribon has been producing information materials to enhance people's awareness on the richness of Philippine biodiversity. To order, e-mail order@haribon.org.ph or contact Yolli Deveza at 433-3476 or 924-8978.

### J. NUYDA SOLO ART EXHIBIT



Artist painter J. Nuyda will have a solo art exhibit featuring Mindscape 'Memories' at Le Souffle The Fort on August 23.

### MAPUA GRADUATE TOPS ARCHITECTURE BOARD EXAMS

Mapua Institute of Technology, known for its over eighty years of academic excellence in the field of engineering and architecture education, recently affirmed its leading position with its performance in the June 2006 Architecture Licensure Examination. Mapua graduate Raison John Jose Bassig copped the first place with a score of 84.60. Of the 1,105 that took the licensure exams, only 470 passed, or about forty two percent. Mapua graduates are known to perform well in the board exams. It should be noted that in the Civil Engineering Licensure examinations held last May 2006, Mapua magna cum laude graduate Robertson N. Ferrer copped the first place with a score of 98.95. His examination rating is the highest score ever obtained, beating the 2001 98.50 rating of Dindo Esplana, likewise a Mapua graduate.

### VS&F CLASSIC FOOD INT'L ATTENDS CATERSOURCE

Salvador 'Buddy' Abesamis (far right) and Josephine Abesamis (center) of VS&F Classic Food International have just returned from the US where they attended Catersource 2006 14th Annual Conference and Trade Show held in Paris Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada. This year, partners Buddy and Josephine received an achievement award from the prestigious organization in recognition of their excellent performance in the country. To date, VS&F Classic Food Int'l is the only Philippine representative in the yearly convention.

**BOSCH BRINGS FIRST-RATE SERVICE TO WORKSHOPS**

Robert Bosch Inc, sole Philippine carrier of Bosch Automotive products, in July launched Asean's first Bosch Service Card, which provides the country's motorist with greater access to Bosch products and services. Through its accredited workshops nationwide, the company extends discounts on all Bosch Automotive parts and accessories to BSC holders. The Bosch Service Card provides motorists with the availability of genuine spare parts at a discounted price and the convenience of having maintenance, testing, diagnosis and repair, and technical consulting services under one roof.

# OKI takes in-house colour printing to a new level

OKI DATA CORP (OKI), LEADING provider of innovative solutions and services marketed under the global business-to-business OKI Printing Solutions brand, today announced the newest additions to its A4 colour page printer range: the new-look C3000 and the C5000 series printers.

Based on the company's unique digital LED technology, the new printers will ensure that professional colour printing is available to business of all sizes, from individuals and small work teams, to medium/ large workgroups.

Mikihiko Maeno, president and CEO for Oki Data Corp stated: "As business printing solutions specialists we have made the strategic decision to deliver the greatest value in the industry, with high performing, innovative products that are specifically tailored for the demanding needs of the business market."

"The commitment from OKI Printing Solutions is to continue to develop printing solutions that deliver what is most meaningful to our customers - increasing product value based on innovation, performance, reliability and low total cost of ownership," he said.

The new-look C3000 Series printers combine style with functionality owing to their small footprint and enhanced ergonomics. Additionally, the new C3000 Series, like the C5800/C5900, set the benchmark for colour print speeds in their category, whilst the C5600/C5700 printers offer the optimum balance of price and performance delivering mono cost per copy at prices comparable with mono only devices.

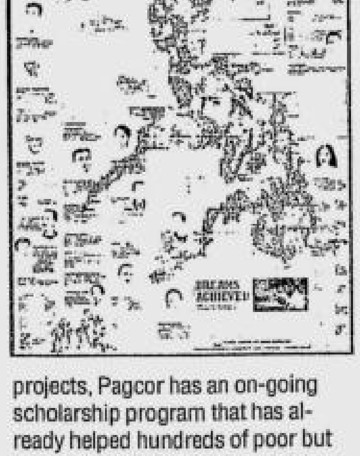
All products include the new Internet Explorer utility, Web Print, which automatically scales web pages to fit the width of standard paper so that information isn't cut off and paper wastage is reduced. Other new features include newly developed High Definition Toner, which when combined with OKI Printing Solutions' ProQ2400 Multilevel technology, delivers best in class print quality with reduced graininess and greater colour depth.

The entire digital LED printer range carries a lifetime warranty on each Digital LED (Light Emitting Diode) printhead.

For more information on OKI printers, call Bridge Distribution Inc at 781-0581 to 84.

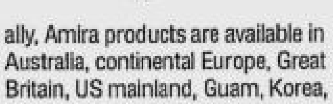
## ProductFILES

### Philippine historical map/poster being published by Leading Edge



A HISTORICAL MAP/POSTER FEATURING portraits of Filipino heroes and heroines, as well as highlights of major events leading to the Proclamation of Independence in Kawit, Cavite in 1898, is being published by Leading Edge Forum for Excellence Inc. Entitled Birth of the Filipino Nation - the First Republic in Asia, the poster is being produced by Leading Edge Forum, with a grant from Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp (Pagcor). One of the consultants for the project is Dr. Serafin Quiason, former director of the National Library and a member of the board of directors of the National Historical Institute. The poster is one of the projects of Leading Edge Forum - a non-stock, nonprofit corporation - designed to promote pride in our history, and provide Philippine history mentors with effective teaching aids. Together with its several other social amelioration projects, Pagcor has an on-going scholarship program that has already helped hundreds of poor but deserving Filipino students finish high school and college.

### A more beautiful you in 5 days



AMIRA, THE NAME SYNONYMOUS to skin whitening, was the pioneer in body and face lightening way back when whitening was not the craze it has become today. As the progenitor of the 7-day whitening regimen, Amira has successfully brought to the country the technology and components behind whitening products abroad: whitening properties from Germany, pimple healing potions from Syria, scents from Europe, and secret ingredients from Japan, France and Korea. The same Amira promise of beauty is contained in Blanche, its new line of super-whitening products. Super because it's endowed with much more emollients and natural skin whitening agents, plus the amazing short time of skin lightening in just five days. A regimen that's fast, budget-friendly and safe, all Amira products conform to quality product standards and do not contain heavy metals (lead, mercury, nickel and arsenic). Distributed globally, Amira products are available in Australia, continental Europe, Great Britain, US mainland, Guam, Korea, and Japan, and in key Asean cities. In the Philippines, Amira's Blanche Advanced Skin Whitening Cream is available at SM department stores, Mercury Drug branches, Hortaleza branches and at all leading department and drug stores nationwide. For inquiries, call the Amira Pharmaceutical and Medical Trading Corp head office at (45)887-1958 or 411-9221; 415-0108 and 373-2936 local 209; 376-4310, or e-mail info@amiramagicproducts.com.

## Bits Clips

### Femfi opens training site

RESPONDING TO AN IMPENDING SHORTAGE OF 35,000 officers to man the global fleet in the next five years, Far East Maritime Foundation Inc (Femfi) a training center for seafarers opened its practicum and training site aimed at training more qualified seafarers and officers to help crewing agencies and shipping companies cope with this threat. Trine Hagen, officer of the Maritime Section of the Royal Norwegian Embassy and the Norwegian Maritime Directorate (NMD) graced the inauguration on July 29, at the practicum site in Naic, Cavite. The multi-million site sits in a two hectare land overlooking Cavite's shorelines and will feature more advanced structures and training facilities and equipments for Standard Training Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW'95) mandated courses in firefighting and other courses as required by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and international shipping companies before hiring seafarers to crew their vessels. The development of the site was made through the effort of FEMFI'S officials led by its president Capt. Constancio Salasab and vice president Chito Medel, both expressing their strong desire to work hand in hand with the international shipping community for a steady supply of qualified and well trained seafarers to a global shipping industry that employs more than 30,000 Filipino seafarers onboard its vessels.

### SM steps up membership renewal campaign

IN LINE WITH ITS THRUST TO PROVIDE MEMBERS WITH CONTINUING SHOPping opportunities that offer more value for their money, SM Advantage, the country's biggest, most exciting loyalty program recently launched the P1 Million SM Shopping Spree raffle promo. From now until Sept. 15, raffle promo is open to SM Advantage members with expiring or expired permanent cards who renew their membership within the promo period. At stake is a total of P1 million worth of shopping spree to be awarded to the winners as SM Advantage points redeemable at the SM Retail Partner of their choice. The grand winner gets P500,000 worth of SM shopping spree; while each of the other 50 winners gets P10,000 worth of the same. SM Advantage membership renewal is fast and easy. There is no need to fill up any forms. Members simply have to pay the renewal fee of P100 at any cashier counter of any branch of SM Department Store and proceed to the Customer Service counter to claim their new cards. Members enjoy a 20 percent rebate on the renewal fee when they pay with their SM Advantage points. More incentives await members who renew their membership. Value Perks coupons booklet loaded with P14,000 worth of discounts and privileges from leading participating partner establishments are given to all members who renew their SM Advantage cards. Members are encouraged to renew their permanent cards before expiry so that they can continue earning reward points. Expired cards will no longer be accepted for points awarding, points redemption and privilege availment beginning Aug. 7. Earned points from expired cards will be forfeited starting Oct. 1.

### San Miguel Mills holds free baking seminar

BAKING ENTHUSIASTS, BAKESHOP OWNERS, HOME BAKERS, AND ASPIring entrepreneurs are invited to the Learn, Bake, and Earn: Baking Made Easier seminar organized by San Miguel Mills. Slated for August 19 at the San Miguel Head Office, Ortigas Center. The seminar will highlight the use and benefits of premixes like brownies, donuts, cookies, muffins, pancakes, pies, siopao, and waffles. It will also feature lectures on food cart business opportunities for entrepreneurs. For more information on Learn, Bake, and Earn: Baking Made Easier, call San Miguel Mills Inc at 702-5649 or 702-5058.

### NCO Group hosts Barangay job fairs

WORKING TOGETHER WITH QUEZON CITY MAYOR SONNY BELMONTE and his great team of councilors, NCO is bringing job fairs right in their respective Barangay halls. One of the biggest job fairs NCO Group will host will be on Aug. 11, 12 and 19 at the 3rd Floor Activity Area of Ali Mall in Cubao, Quezon City from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Applicants just need to bring their resumes or bio-data coupled with their strong English language communication skills. Additionally, NCO Group's Communication Skills Enhancement Seminar (CSES) gives free training to people who have the potential to work as a call center representative but need more communications training before being hired. NCO Group invites Quezon City residents to drop by one of the upcoming Barangay job fairs or stop by the ELJCC Bldg on the 4th floor during any week day to learn more about what NCO has to offer.

### Papa Healthy, Papa Bright! in schools

PAPA BANANA CATSUP RECENTLY EMBARKED ON SPREADING THE MESsage of good nutrition to various schoolchildren when it kicked off its Papa Healthy, Papa Bright! school program at the Epifanio de los Santos Elementary School in Singalong, Manila. The program aims to promote proper nourishment among school kids by working hand-in-hand with public and private schools to provide teachers, pupils and parents with insightful messages on the importance of good nutrition and a healthy diet for school children. The Papa Healthy, Papa Bright! school program is scheduled to make its way to a total of 50 schools in the Greater Manila Area, North and Central Luzon, Bicol and Mindanao.

### UP Diliman KRH '76 Grand Reunion

IF YOU BELONG TO UP DILIMAN BATCH '76 AND LIVED AT KALAYAAN RESIdence Hall, come to the Grand Reunion of Kalayaan Residence Hall Batch 1976 on Oct. 28, Saturday, 4 p.m., Kalayaan Residence Hall, UP Diliman, Quezon City. For details, enroll now at KRH76 e-Group. Contact netmoderator Francisco "Cookie" Pajares Jr. (Cebu) at fpj455@yahoo.com or reunion chair Ferdinand "Ding" Aguila (Manila) at daaguila@yahoo.com.

### Loremar Realty Corp awarded by NPQEA

THE NATIONAL PRODUCT QUALITY EXCELLENCE AWARDS HAS CONFERRED rising real estate developer Loremar Realty Corp, the Best Real Estate Developer Award at a formal ceremony recently held at the Crowne Plaza in Ortigas Center, Pasig City. The National Product Quality Excellence Awards recognizes companies, products and services that have met and consistently deliver consumer-set standards of quality. Products and services that receive the Awards are also given the Seal of Product Quality that serves as a symbol for consumers to recognize that a product or service has met rigorous standards of product quality and to meet customers' expectations. "We are proud that Loremar's efforts are being recognized by the consumers. With this award comes the knowledge that we are headed in the right direction of providing top quality and affordable housing projects that will promote our drive towards stylish, affordable and secure housing for the Filipino," said Loremar Realty Corp, vice president Richard F. Marinas.

TransCo
Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

*Supply and Delivery of Mux Equipment and Accessories*

*[Reference No.: PB060531-EL0090]*

1. The *National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO)*, through the *CY2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board*, intends to apply the sum of ***Php 5,480,800.00*** being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply and Delivery of Mux Equipment and Accessories.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *Mux Equipment.* Delivery of the GOODS is required *within sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of approved Purchase Order.* The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bidders, starting August 2, 2006 to August 29, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of ***One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00).*** The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on August 17, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. at same address below. Requests for clarifications on the bid documents should be submitted before the Pre-Bid Conference.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 a.m. of August 30, 2006. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form and amount:

| Form of Security | Amount |
|---|---|
| 1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC) | Php 54,808.00 |
| 2. Bank guarantee (1.5% of ABC) | Php 82,212.00 |
| 3. Surety bond (2.5% of ABC) | Php 137,020.00 |
| 4. Foreign government guarantee (100% of ABC) | Php 5,480,800.00 |

or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bid opening shall be on August 30, 2006 / 10:00 a.m. at the *Admin Conference Room, same address below.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

***National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region***
***Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman***
***MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.***
***Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road***
***Diliman, Quezon City***
***Tel. No.: (632) 981-2235 / Fax No. (632) 922-8432***
***Website: www.transco.ph***

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Aug. 4 & 10, 2006)

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JOB Market COMPACT JOB Market **Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514.**

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Republic of the Philippines
City of Olongapo
-o-
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
General Services Office, 2/F City Hall Complex
Tel./Fax No. 047-222-2689
Web: www.olongapocity.gov.ph
Email: Olongapo@piol.net

July 28, 2006

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The City Government of Olongapo, through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites system integrators solution providers/distributors/contractors to apply for the eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Project | Hospital Information System |
| Location | James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital, Olongapo City |
| Contract No. | OC-043-JLGMH-001-06 GD |
| Brief Description | Provision of a fully integrated hospital information system which will satisfy the needs and facilitate the objectives for computerization of James L. Gordon Memorial Hospital |
| Approved Budget | Php 10,318,600.00 |

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar and related project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least fifty percent (50%) of the proposed project for bidding and have the key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under puchase) available for the prosecution of the project.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using nondiscretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights to privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A.) 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from the Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section 12 of the Bidding Documents. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial, requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post qualification procedure.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

COMPLETE SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

| DATE | ACTIVITIES | VENUE |
|---|---|---|
| July 31, 2006 to Aug. 14, 2006 | Posted at GEPS Website & Conspicuous Places/Newspaper Nationwide Circulation | |
| Aug. 15, 2006 to Aug. 22, 2006 | Issuance of Bid Documents upon submission of Letter of Intent and payment of non-refundable bid form fee of P 22,500.00 8:00 am to 5:00 pm from the BAC Secretariat. Method of payment will be in cash | BAC Secretariat 2/F Gen. Services Office, Olongapo City Hall |
| Aug. 23, 2006 | Pre-Bidding Conference at 10:00 a.m. | |
| Sept. 06, 2006 | Opening of Bids at 10:00 am | |
| Sept. 7 to 13, 2006 | Bid Evaluation / Post Qualification | |
| Sept. 14, 2006 | Notice of Awards | |

The City Government of Olongapo reserves the right to accept and reject any bid, to annul the bidding process and to cancel all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Further information may be obtained from the BAC Secretariat, General Services Office, 2/F Olongapo City Hall.

(Sgd.) MERLITO J. MAJARUCON
Head, BAC Secretariat

NOTED BY:
(Sgd.) Atty. ANGELITO R. OROZCO
BAC Chairman

(PDI--Aug. 3 & 10, 2006)

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **JUANITA BARIN CARRILLO** and **ELVIRA CARILLO CATLEDGE** has been extrajudicially settled among their heirs as per Doc. No. 225, Page No. 46, Book No. 65, Series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Lope M. Velasco of Makati City.

(PDI – August 3, 10 & 17, 2006)

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**Transco on Page B2**

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City of Roxas, Province of Capiz
(036) 6210-036 Local 254
Fax No.: (036) 6210-036 Local 158

**BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE**

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Capiz thru its BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the project:

| | |
|---|---|
| Name of Contract | Materials use for the concreting of Panay-Pawa Road Phase-II Panay, Capiz |
| Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) | P2,285,450.00 |
| Source of Fund | Trust Fund |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Portland Cement | 6,250 | bags |
| 2. | Washed Gravel | 777 | M3 |
| 3. | Washed Sand | 417 | M3 |
| 4. | 12mm x 6.0m RSB STD | 170 | pcs. |
| 5. | #18 G.I. Tie Wires | 40 | Kgs. |
| 6. | Spade | 6 | pcs. |
| 7. | Maso 6lbs | 4 | pcs. |

| BAC Activities | Schedule |
|---|---|
| 1. Submission of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application of Eligibility | August 21-25, 2006 |
| 2. Issuance of Bid documents | August 29, 2006 |
| 3. Pre-Bid Confrence | September 6, 2006 |
| 4. Opening of Bids | September 8, 2006 |

1. In order to qualify for participation in the public bidding, bidders should conform to all eligibility requirements as prescribed by the Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Republic Act 9184.
2. The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility forms at Provincial General Services Office, Provincial Capitol, Roxas City upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of prescribed non-refundable fee of PESOS: Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00).
3. Bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the same address.
4. Bidders shall drop their duly accomplished technical and financial proposals in two separate envelopes in the bid boxes before the deadline of submission of bids, if they have not earlier pre-qualified.
5. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in a form of cash and must be delivered to PGSO on or before the bid closing date.
6. BAC Committee assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.
7. BAC Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure or not to award the contract; and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) DANTE B. BERMEJO
Chairman
BAC Committee

(PDI--Aug. 10 & 17, 2006)

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Republic of the Philippines
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**
5th Floor., Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave.,
Pasig City, Philippines
Tel. Nos. 636-65-43; Telefax No. 636-65-42, 633-93-43
Website: http://www/DepED.gov.ph

DepED

*Tanggapan ng*
*Kawaksing Kalihim*
*Office of the Assistant Secretary*

## NOTICE TO ALL CONCERNED

This is to inform all concerned publishers who intend to submit their textbooks (TXs) and teacher's manuals (TMs) for Music, Arts, Physical Education and Health (MAPEH) that the deadline for submission is moved from July 31 to August 4, 2006 to August 14 to 18, 2006.

The extension of the schedule is to give interested publishers more time to prepare their MAPEH TXs/TMs in accordance with the new Learning Competencies and come up with two separate TXs and TMs; one for Music and Arts and another for Physical Education and Health.

**(Sgd.) Atty. CAMILO MIGUEL M. MONTESA**
Assistant Secretary and BAC Chairperson

(PDI – August 10, 2006)

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# OBITUARIES

**"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."**

John 3:16

## Atty. CIPRIANO C. AZADA

**of San Pablo City and**
**Philam Homes, Quezon City**

*has peacefully joined his Creator on August 9, 2006*
*and his wife **LYDIA O. TANCINCO** (†)*
*at the age of 82.*

His loving son **Nito**; daughter-in-law **Marie Arlene Emborgo**; grandchildren **Cedric & Troy**; brothers **Teodoro** (†), **Victor**, **Marcial Lito** (†); sisters **Lydia Lozada** (†), **Sr. Consuelo, fmm**, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains lie in state at the Mt. Carmel Shrine, Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment follows the 10:00 a.m. Funeral Mass at the Hearts of Jesus and Mary Parish Church, Daily Mirror St., West Triangle, Quezon City tomorrow, August 11, 2006.

*Please omit flowers.*

---

## ALFONSO SIM UY

*Now peacefully rests in the infinite Grace*
*and Goodness of our Lord*
*on the 8th of August 2006 at the age of 88.*

He is survived by his loving wife **Rosario**; children **Alfonso Jr.**, **Alex & Albert**, **Alice & Renaldo**; grandchildren **Terence, Tyrone & Thompson**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 12, 2006 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

---

## CONSULIANA M. BORGOÑA

*"Lanie"*

*Died in the grace of our Lord on August 7, 2006 at the age of 64.*

Her bereaved husband **Francis**; children **Junjo, Earl, Palmy, Rose and Ian**; sisters **Adelina, Nemia and Marissa**; brothers **Val, Carlo, Paquito, Rey, Cris** (†), and **Toti** (†), grandchildren, relatives and friends request for your prayers as she joined in glory with her Creator and Savior.

Her remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Chapel I & J, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on August 12, 2006 at 11:30 a.m. at the Paz Crematory after the 10:00 a.m. service.

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❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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## ROQUE NERI JR.

*Peacefully joined our Lord*
*on August 8, 2006 at the age of 70.*

His bereaved wife **PASTORA DIZON**; children **EDWIN & CELIA, MARVIN, RONNIE III & ERLINDA, PAZ EUGENIA & ALVIN DYSANGCO, MARITONI, DALE & MARIZ** request readers to pray for his eternal repose.

His body lies in state at the Neri's Residence, 290 Lolomboy, Bocaue, Bulacan.

Interment on Aug. 13, 2006 2 PM at Krus sa Wawa Memorial Park Wakas, Bocaue, Bulacan.

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*Our Dearly Beloved*

## ANTOINETTE CACANINDIN PUNO

**"Nettie"**

*Peacefully joined our Lord*
*on August 8, 2006 at the age of 68.*

Her loving husband **Artemio**; children **Dennis & Jenn, Chris, Jongie, Manet, Pyle & Malou**; grandchild **Matthew** and all relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Jersey St., Project 8, Bahay Toro, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, August 12, 2006 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

---

## MA. LUISA "NENA" OTERO MANUEL

*Passed away in the Grace of our Lord*
*on August 6, 2006 at the age of 91.*

She is survived by her children **Tita, Lulu, Ogie, Girlie** and their spouses; grandchildren **Tetet, Bambi, Lisa, Butch, Val, Chary, Evy, Cocoy, Bimbo, Pinky, Shellane, Letlet, Ginger, Richard, Raquel, Ryan, Jackie, Mara, James,** and **Mia**; great-grandchildren; siblings **Leonora**(†), **Virginia**(†), **Mary, Rose, Carmen**(†), **Remedios, Cecil,** and **Ricardo Jr**; step-mom **Rosalina**; and in-laws. All her relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the St. Therese of the Holy Child of Jesus Parish Church, UP Los Baños, Laguna.

Cremation will be on Saturday, August 12, 2006 at **Eternal Crematory, San Antonio, Biñan, Laguna** after the **10:00 a.m. Holy Mass** at the St. Therese of the Holy Child of Jesus Church, UP Los Baños, Laguna.

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# BUSINESS

## Motor vehicle sales down slightly as of July

### Assemblers still optimistic growth will kick in by year-end

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MOTOR VEHICLE SALES DIPPED 1.3 percent in the first seven months, according to the Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines and the Truck Manufacturers Association.

But the assemblers were optimistic that sales would gather steam toward the end of the year as they await a Supreme Court decision, which is expected to uphold the ban against used vehicle imports.

Campi and TMA said in a joint report that 54,834 units were sold as of end-July against 55,533 units in the same period of 2005.

On the other hand, July sales increased by 2.3 percent to 8,601 units from the previous month's 8,401 units due to a growth in sales of light commercial vehicles and light trucks.

Campi and TMA said members were hoping that sales would pick up in the last months of the year amid expectations of a final Supreme Court ruling on Executive Order No. 156 which bans the entry of used vehicles into the country except in the freeport of Subic.

They also said removal of the 70-percent cap on firm's value-added tax input credits—which they also expect to push through soon by way of amendments to the reformed VAT law—could help spur growth.

From January to July, passenger car sales went up 3.5 percent to 21,426 units from 20,703 units the previous year.

However, turnover of commercial vehicles—comprised of Asian utility vehicles, light commercial vehicles, light trucks and trucks and buses—dipped by 4.1 percent to 33,408 units from 34,830 units.

Sales of AUVs went down by 12.5 percent to 13,730 units, while those of light trucks slid by 29.6 percent to 892 units.

Sales of light commercial vehicles—consisting of pickups, vans, compact sports utility vehicles—went up 4.9 percent to 18,420 units, while those of trucks and buses grew by 14.7 percent to 366 units.

In terms of total sales, Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. kept the lead with 38.6 percent of the market.

It sold 21,153 units the previous seven months, up by 6.7 percent.

Honda Cars Philippines Inc. came in second with 14 percent of the market with sales reaching 7,685 units or 39.4 percent higher.

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. placed third with 12.5 percent of the market, but sold 6,838 units or a 14-percent setback.

In the CV segment, Toyota grabbed 40.3 percent of the market; Mitsubishi held 18.4 percent and Isuzu Philippines Corp. had 14 percent.

Also, Toyota sold the most cars, grabbing 35.9 percent of the market segment.

Honda cornered 29.3 percent and Ford Motor Co. Philippines Inc. held 8 percent.

The country's only exporter of completely built units, Ford, shipped out 5,525 units between January and July of 2005.

## *Gov't gives ultimatum to Nagayama*

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT HAS GIVEN Nagayama Taisei Consortium, the winning bidder for the government's property in Nampeidai, Japan, until August 25 to pay the long overdue bid price of 480 million yen.

Failure to pay will force the government to cancel the bid, according to Finance Undersecretary Gaudencio Mendoza Jr.

The interagency Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) has sent Nagayama last July 26 a notice saying that the service development contract should be signed by Aug. 11.

The BAC likewise told Nagayama that it should pay the 480-million-yen contract price within 10 days after the contract signing.

"If they could not pay within the 10-day period, then we can rebid the property," Mendoza said.

The government awarded the bid for the 50-year lease of the 2,489-square-meter Nampeidai property to Nagayama last December.

Nagayama won over its only competitor, Urban Development Corp.

The contract signing on the sale of the property, as well as the payment, should have been done last March, but Nagayama has not yet released the money.

The finance official, however, said that Nagayama informed him that it intended to meet the deadline and that the delay in the signing of the contract and payment was due to some internal problems.

The unsigned contract states that the Philippine government will lease the property to Nagayama for 50 years, after which it would be returned to the government.

The contract also states that Nagayama will build a 1.7-billion-yen building on the Nampeidai property, and that 22 percent of the building will be reserved for the exclusive use of the Philippine government. The government intends to use the space as a consulate office.

The Nampeidai property has been vacated after the Philippine embassy in Japan transferred to the Roponggi district, also in Tokyo, during the time of President Joseph Estrada.

The Nampeidai property is just one of the Philippine government's pieces of property in Japan.

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## RP firms get 10% of transcription jobs in Asia

LOCAL FIRMS PROVIDING OUTSOURCED medical transcription services have secured a tenth of all US jobs farmed out to Asia, and they are seeking an even bigger market share given the vast opportunities in the $25-billion market.

According to the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, outsourced MT jobs from the United States were expected to grow by a fifth every year due to the increasing documentation demand to support reimbursement, risk management and the need for more data.

Aside from that, the world's largest market for MT services is experiencing a shortage in medical transcribers because the number of retiring workers exceed that of replacements, who are not as skilled.

Also, US industry reports indicate further growth in demand as some 6,700 hospitals in the United States are expected to convert medical notes to electronic files.

Citem chief Felicitas Agoncillo-Reyes said this opens up opportunities for Philippine MT companies especially as the country's cultural closeness to the United States and the American educational system give our local transcribers an advantage in dealing with American clients.

Moreover, Filipino transcribers can process up to a thousand lines of information daily with a 98 percent accuracy rate.

Citem is working with the Medical Transcription Industry Association of the Philippines to secure bigger business deals from healthcare institutions in the United States through their participation in the 78th AHIMA (American Health Information Management Association) Convention and Exhibition in October.

AHIMA represents more than 50,000 educated health information management professionals who make and influence buying decisions.

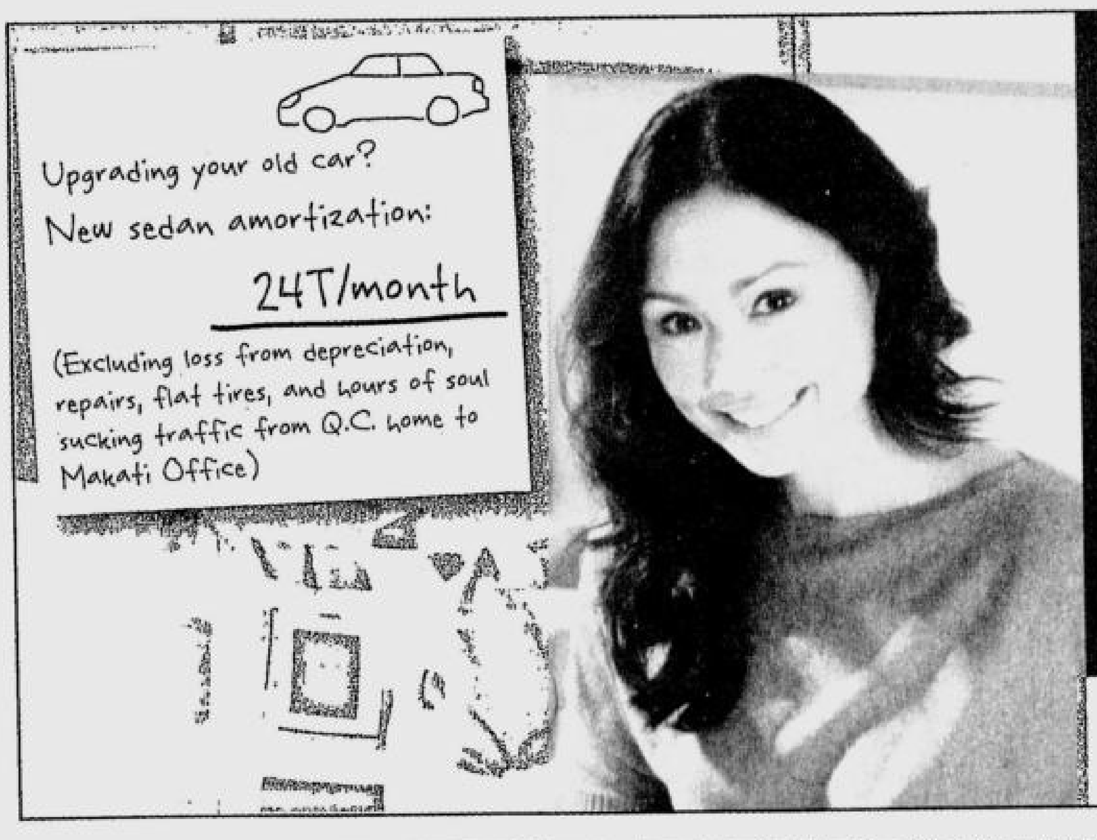
The local MT industry is an emerging sector with its pool of low-cost but English-proficient and IT-skilled workers who have medical backgrounds and are familiar with US medical standards and practices.

The potential for growth is also founded on the industry's advanced and cost-competitive telecommunications infrastructure, which could deliver output to the US due to the 12-hour difference between two countries.

The industry employs about 5,000 professionals and offer transcription services for emergency reports, consultation reports, clinical notes, psychiatric evaluation, laboratory x-ray reports and therapy and rehabilitation notes using highly advanced software and equipment from the US.

According to the Philippine IT Offshore Network, a Philippine MT firm was awarded in 2003 the largest contract in the world.

In 2005, the country ranked third in the world for top BPO destinations based on neoIT's Mapping Offshore Update. *Ronnel W. Domingo*



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## $200-M power plant set

By Abigail L. Ho

LOCAL FIRM MG MINING AND Energy Corp., through Sultan Energy Philippines Corp., plans to invest at least $200 million to put up a power plant near a mine site in Sultan Kudarat.

Sultan Energy president and MG Mining vice chair Rufino Bomasang said MG Mining currently holds a number of coal exploration contracts in Mindanao covering proven reserves of at least 80 million tons.

These coal sites, particularly the ones in Sultan Kudarat, could be developed to fuel a 200-megawatt (MW) mine-mouth power plant, he said.

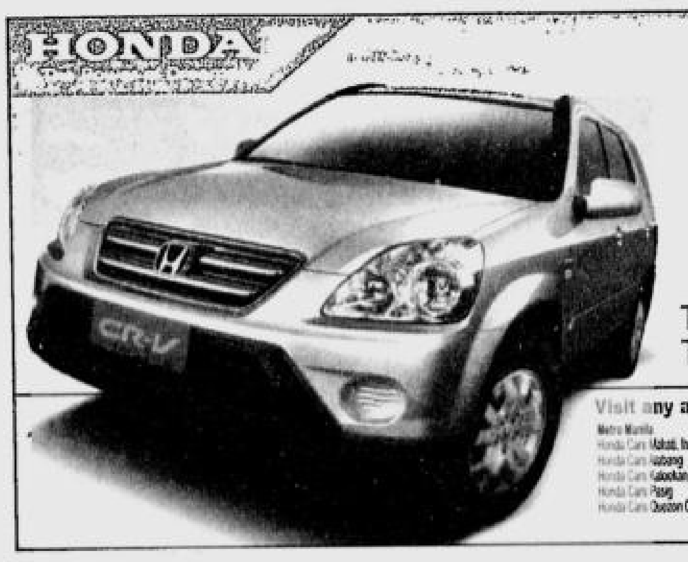
For another investment of between $50 million and $100 million, he said the company's Sultan Kudarat mines had the potential to produce around 500,000-700,000 tons of coal a year, enough to feed a 200-MW power plant.

"We expect to produce enough coal to fuel a power plant by 2011. By then, we want to have the power plant and the transmission system in place so we can immediately supply power to the demand centers," he said in a briefing.

He said the company was in talks with possible buyers of the power that the plant would produce, including the Aboitiz-owned Davao Light and Power Co.

Cagayan de Oro Electric Co. was another prospective buyer that Sultan Energy planned to approach, he said.

If the National Transmission Corp.'s proposed Leyte-Mindanao interconnection project would materialize, the company could even expand its market to the Visayas or even Luzon, he added.



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LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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SS ● WEDNESDAY 2BU ● THURSDAY FOOD

# To market you shall go before learning to cook

A cooking school right where you can buy the freshest ingredients? It's a delicious idea whipped up by CCA and the Araneta Center

**Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes**
**Photos by Roger Carpio**

IMAGINE THE THRILL OF GOing to market with top chefs helping you choose the freshest produce then cooking with them. And imagine receiving all sorts of tips from your new marketing buddies—from how to make the most of your purchases to how to artfully arrange the resulting dish for serving.

With "Shop, Cook and Learn," the Center for Culinary Arts (CCA) Manila gives cooking enthusiasts and hobbyists a fun and exciting way to indulge their passion.

The first of its kind in the Philippines, the program offers short courses at the second floor of Farmers Market, Araneta Center in Cubao, Quezon City, in the room that used to be the Farmers Market administration office.

## Location, location, location

What makes the program unique is its location, which is within a market where all the necessary ingredients the class will need are readily available.

"We want to showcase all fresh ingredients available and teach students how to choose the right ingredients for their recipes," says Badjie Guerrero-Trinidad, CCA general manager.

Part of the hands-on course is a once-around of the market, a walking tour with plenty of insider tips on picking seasonal ingredients at their freshest and choosing the best parts for chicken and beef dishes.

"In Katipunan, we have a commissary where students can simply get the ingredients. But here in the market, it's like real life. There's nothing better than showing them the different kinds of fish, fruits and vegetables," adds Trinidad.

The location also makes it easier for students to have a better appreciation of the local produce.

## Perfect timing

The CCA did not have to convince the Aranetas to open a culinary school within Farmers Market.

"We were actually looking for a place in a mall to make the courses more accessible to the public, but we also hoped for a place that would give us access to the ingredients. When the Aranetas approached us with the concept of a school within a market, it was perfect tim-

TO MARKET/ C2

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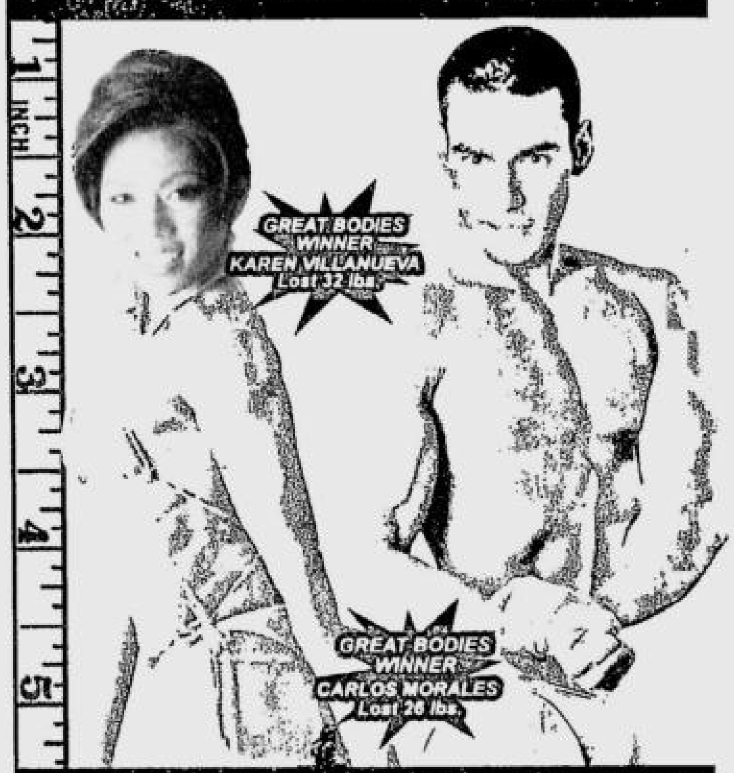

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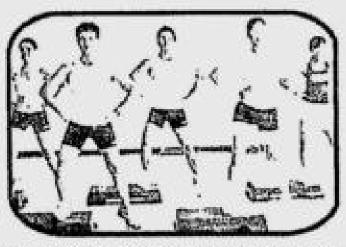

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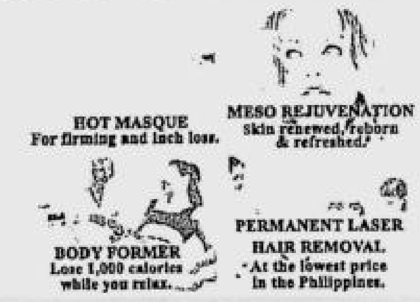

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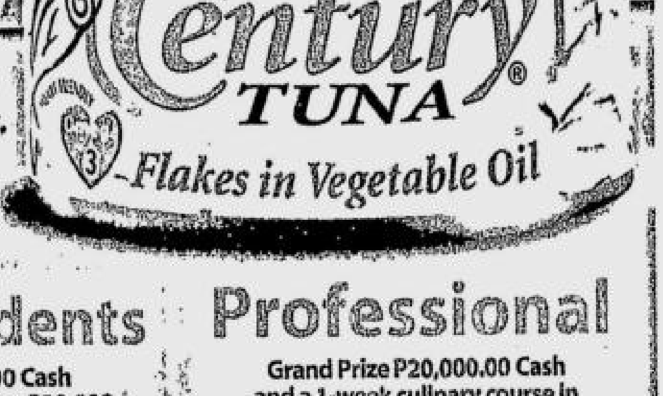

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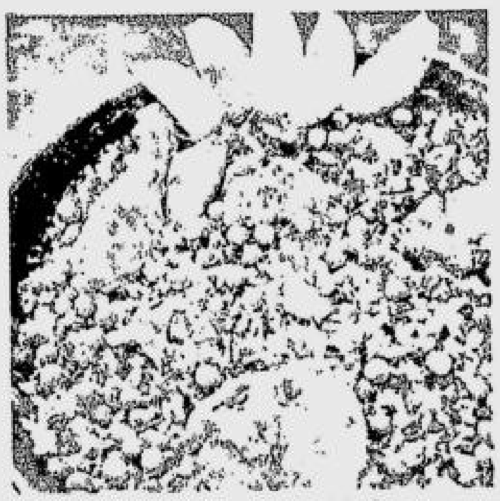
# To market you shall go before learning to cook



**STUDENTS** at CCA-Farmers Market Satellite School will learn how to prepare Arroz Con Pollo...

... **RISOTTO** with Sautéed Seafood and Crab Fat...

... **AND HERB-CRUSTED** Grouper Fillet with Tomato and Black Olive Relish, among others.

From page C1

ing," says Trinidad.

Each class has a maximum of 12 students and runs for four hours. Classes are kept small for greater interaction between students and instructors. They are conducted in a 120-sq m well-equipped practical kitchen, with an impressive granite island that can accommodate up to 12 students. Ovens, four-burner stoves, a refrigerator and a freezer complete the kitchen, which has a wide glass panel that looks out to the market.

Two classes are held every day, each session costing P1,950, inclusive of ingredients, apron, toque (chef's hat), printed recipes and lecture handouts with conversion table. A certificate of completion is given to participants at the end of the course.

## Offbeat names

Right now, the school offers about 120 short-term courses. "We try to make the names of the courses as entertaining as possible, as opposed to the more serious courses in Katipunan," says Trinidad.

"Kulang Sa Pancit" covers different kinds of noodles. "Barbecue Galore" teaches African, Argentinean, Brazilian and other Latin variations of barbecues. "Extra Soup Po" tackles bisques, chowders, cream, purée and potage. "Fish Tayo" is cooking with fish. "Gutomako!" shows sushi making; "Hamon ng Kampeon," ham making; "Hog Gising!" brunch and breakfast cookery, "I Feel Desserted" whips up quick and easy desserts. "Jewel in the Kitchen" is about Korean cuisine. And "Temptation Island" tempts with what else but chocolate treats.

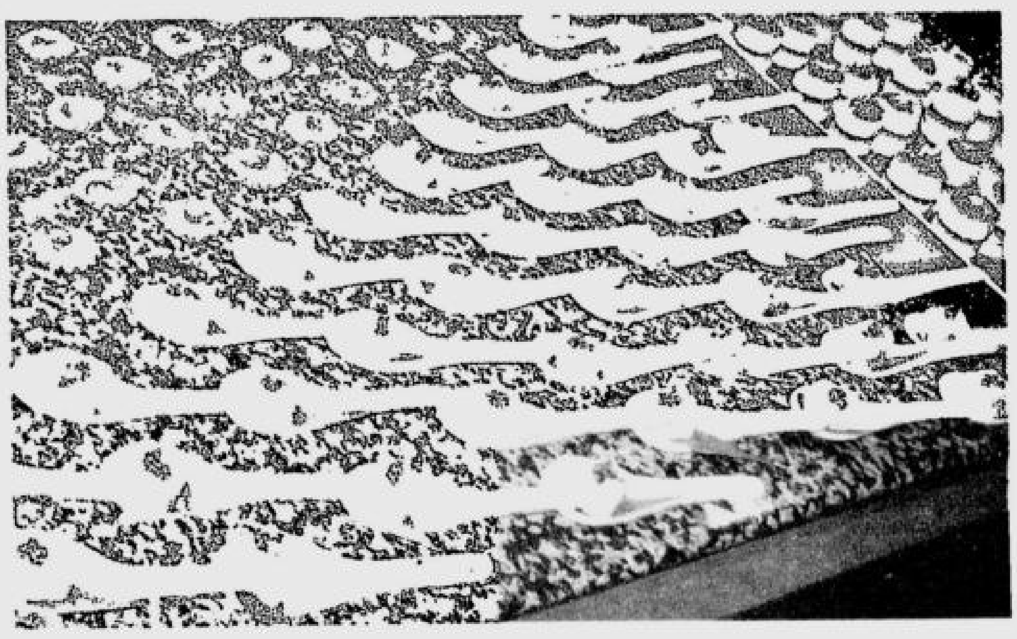
"The nice thing about having classes right in the market is when students learn the recipes, they can buy the ingredients right away (to try the dishes) at home," Trinidad says. "And, more importantly, while shopping for the right ingredients in the market, the students can meet vendors and develop their own *suki*."

Clearly, enjoying their culinary creations after the marketing, cooking and socializing with the chefs is just a bonus.

*Call CCA at 4376058 or 4377456 or e-mail marketing_farmers@cca-manila.com*

*E-mail the author at vbaga@inquirer.com.ph*

**CLASSES** are conducted in a clean, well-equipped practical kitchen that can accommodate up to 12 students.



**STUDENTS** are taught how to prepare and present desserts, as in these individual servings of fruit tarts and maja blanca placed on Chinese soup spoons.

---

# Summers of home-baked cakes

**COUNTRY COOKING**

*Micky Fenix*

The highlight of summer wasn't what we ate during meals but the experiments while younger siblings napped

HOW DO YOU KEEP RESTless sisters, eight of them, occupied during summers when there are no classes?

In my family, the answer was easy. Let the maids go on their summer vacation. Assign chores to the older ones: Clean the rooms. Clean the bathrooms. Take care of the younger ones. Wash the dishes. Wash Papa's car. Cook.

Wisely, my mother assigned kitchen duty to those of us who were interested. She must have learned from experience that an unwilling cook will never turn out good food.

Kitchen duty belonged to two of my sisters who must have inherited my grandmother's genes. I'm in between those two. My fate was to taste, not to critique, unless I didn't want to eat at all.

## Bake off

But the highlight of summer wasn't what we ate during meals. It was the experiments during siesta, when the younger siblings were asleep or pretended to be asleep.

Those experiments found their way into many birthday celebrations years after.

Unlike today when there are so many bakeshops that can do birthday cakes for you, years ago it was always best and cheaper to bake your own cake.

One of my sisters assigned to cook started with baking. Baking, after all, involves precise measurements and formulas. You just have to follow the instructions.

Technique is learned with practice. And she had a lot of practice during those summers. First thing learned was how to do chiffon cake. Then butter cake, sponge cake and chocolate cake.

Those who didn't bake helped to measure ingredients, beat the eggs, place the mixture in the preheated oven. We were all getting to be cake aficionados so that when we tasted a commercial cake, we were quite critical.

A chocolate cake, for instance, that looked easy to do was described as "crazy cake." It was the name given to an aunt's recipe that was a breeze to make. That meant the bakery didn't do enough to impress us.

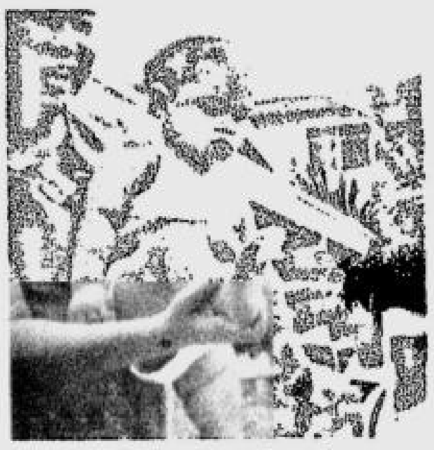
## Polka dots and frostings

But it was decorating the cakes that we remember the most. It wasn't enough that the cake was frosted. Something more had to be done. When we discovered the colorful M&Ms, the cakes took on our preferred polka-dotted look.

When my baker-sister saw another design in a magazine, that version was used to death. For one year, the cake always ended up looking like a butterfly. A small wedge was cut first from the round chiffon cake. That was the head, with antennae made of wires, marshmallows at the ends.

The bigger portion was then cut in half. That meant there were two big letter Cs. These were placed back to back to represent the wings, with the head sandwiched at one end. Again, the colorful M&Ms were used.

The younger siblings' favorite was the series of cupcakes that surrounded the simple cake. Each cupcake was decorated differently so the whole thing ended up more creative, certainly more colorful.



**A NOVEL** way to taste the cake

**HOMEMADE** cake to celebrate a first birthday

**COMMERCIAL** birthday cake featuring Batman

Not all the experiments, however, were successful. There was one time when my sister tried her hand at food coloring. The icing ended up deep blue and no one wanted to eat the cake.

That reminded me of a younger sister's cake that my father bought in Bauang, La Union, his hometown where we were vacationing. It came with colors that were so stark so that the yellow flowers looked sour, the red roses were maroon and the green leaves were moss green.

I've heard these colors described as "kulay Apostoles," the color of the Apostles' robes perhaps in Last Supper paintings by local artists or on images at religious processions. We all remember that cake and still cringe at the thought.

## Perfecting the rolling

One summer, it was mostly Brazo de Mercedes. We had perfected the rolling of the egg whites and thought the core of egg yolks was the best because it didn't contain condensed milk like the commercial versions.

I do remember that everyone gained weight from the "testing." But the one who can still do the Brazo today is our youngest and only boy. He never participated in those baking sessions because he was too young. But I guess watching how this was done years later must have left a deep impression. He was also the one who benefited from all those experiments, birthday after birthday.

It was my brother who also had the first commercial cake probably because we, the older sisters, no longer had time to bake cakes. He was dressed as a spaceman and so his cake had about three rockets.

Our own children also marked birthdays with commercial cakes. The boys had themes like a carnival and then superheroes, the favorites being Batman and Spiderman. The girls had Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, and Snow White and the Seven Dwarves.

Even our birthday cakes are no longer home-baked. We have two current favorites. There is Estrel's caramel cake, always ordered heart-shaped and filled with butter icing roses. The other is Polly Velez Garilao's chocolate cake that is also known as the Shell chocolate cake because it was first sold at the Shell station in Magallanes.

To this day, in our family, birthdays are not complete without the cake. But the most memorable will always be the cakes we made ourselves during those summers when we never knew the word "bored."

*E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com*

**FRENCH** Baker founder and CEO Johnlu Koa with wife Marilou Peña-Koa

**BLESSING.** Puratos Philippines country manager Bernard Poplimont, executive vice president of European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Henry Schumacher, French Baker founder and CEO Johnlu Koa, Commercial Counselor Franck Alby of the French Trade Commission, Martine and Roger De Backer, First Secretary Deputy Head of Operations Delegation of the European Commission to the Philippines, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, SM Group of Companies chair Henry Sy Sr. and host and columnist Johnny Litton cut the ribbon.

# Breaking bread

JOHNLU KOA'S NEWEST FRENCH BAKER occupies one of the best spots at the new SM Mall of Asia. Left of center from the main doors, his spanking new flagship outlet has a dining area separate from the *boulangerie* where you can buy croissants and baguettes for take-out. This is Koa's 30th and biggest French Baker—in only 17 years in the business and it is proof positive of what flour power can do.

The bright and spacious dining area was designed by Anna Marcelo. The sleek, modern interiors were exactly what Koa felt his flagship store needed.

Three specially configured plasma screens adorn the walls, each showing what's on the menu: the best-selling soup du jour in a bread bowl, hearty seafood pasta in white sauce, the ever-popular Chicken a la King in a flaky shell, even Korean beef barbecue served with bean sprouts.

French Baker also serves Germany's famous Tchibo coffee and the comforting goodness of Ghirardelli hot chocolate. Shoppers are helplessly hooked by the aromas.

As if the smell of bread baking is not enticing enough, Koa has spiced up his menu with hickory ribs, hamburger steak and quarter chicken cooked in a wooden oven.

And then there is the bakeshop, with its wide array of crusty breads, rolls, Danish pastries, croissants, scones, pretzels and, recent additions, doughnuts. Every day the French Baker sells its baked products at 50-percent off the regular price 30 minutes before closing time because Koa wants to fill his counters with nothing but freshly baked goodies every morning. The long line of people at every French Baker near closing time proves the shop's popularity and assures the public of fresh products every day.

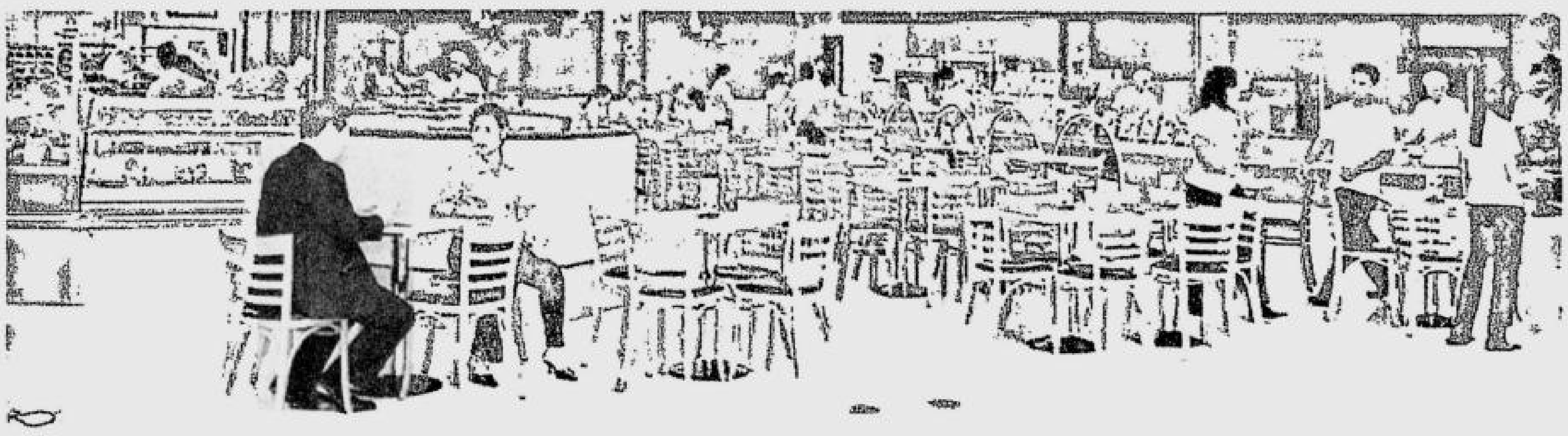
Besides freshness, another key to Koa's success is value for money. French Baker's prices are affordable, but you would have doubted this the night Koa opened his 30th store.

Dignitaries from the government and the business sectors as well as esteemed guests from the international community arrived to celebrate with Koa and wife Marilou, and helped themselves to the French Baker's spread of delicious food, including a mean roast beef. The rain wouldn't go away, but neither would the good cheers.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and SM Group of Companies founder and chair Henry Sy joined a stellar roll of guests in cutting the inaugural red ribbon. After the store blessing and traditional celebratory toast, the VIPs stood shoulder-to-shoulder and simultaneously cut a freshly baked two-meter-long baguette topped with miniature Philippine, French, Belgian and German flags.

The French Baker has branches in and around Metro Manila, Pampanga, Cavite and Metro Cebu.

**AND NOW THE BREAD.** Roger De Backer, Schumacher, Poplimont, Secretary Teves, Martine De Backer, Alby, Koa and culinary expert Ernest Reynoso Gala cut the two-meter-long baguette



**SLEEK** and spacious The French Baker flagship outlet at SM Mall of Asia

# Prison Ministry willing to collect leftover food

**By Linda B. Bolido**

## THE CONSUMER

THE SUGGESTION FROM READER MARIZ Cubelo for food establishments to donate leftover food at the end of the day to those who need it (July 20 column) is enthusiastically supported by Henrietta "Bing" Balbuena, a member of the Prison Ministry of the Couples for Christ.

In her e-mail, Balbuena said the prison ministry was trying to make inmates feel that, though they were serving time for crimes committed, they were still part of society. "Their needs do not differ from ours. They are also hungry in body and in soul."

She cited reports pointing out the lack of food, space, medicine, clothing in prisons and detention places. "This (sharing leftover food) is one small step that can make a big difference," she said. "Leftover food from commercial establishments will not go to waste if these establishments are willing to give this away to our inmates... We work at Camp Sampaguita of the New Bilibid Prisons."

If there are restaurants and other food establishments out there willing to donate leftover food to Balbuena's group, you can contact the Prison Ministry coordinator, lawyer Ernesto Layusa, at 7724996 or e-mail viernchy@yahoo.com.

### Scams

You've got to hand it to scam artists. They never say die. Reader Hermie Mendez received a message congratulating her for winning P300,000 and a Toyota Altis as home partner (in what, the message did not say). The sender said he was with the Philippine Communication Center. When Mendez's daughter-in-law called the number given to get more details on the so-called contest, asking about permits from the Department of Trade and Industry, raffle date, the party on the other end could not provide answers and was annoyed that they were interrogating him.

Another reader, Claire Algarme said her sister received a text from Charity Foundation, apparently a very generous organization that had been giving away prizes to people who did not even know they had joined some contest. "My sister received the same text message but we replied that the sender must send first his permit number and other authentication details and that we have to verify with [the text sender's network] and the authorities the existence of the said promo. We never got a reply."

Algarme said they reported the incident to the concerned network and they were asked to report it to the National Telecommunications Commission. The sisters did as requested, sending an e-mail to NTC to report the case. They never heard from NTC.

That is why these scam artists continue to thrive—it seems no serious steps are being taken by both networks and government agencies to put an end to the racket.

The scam artists boldly give their numbers as they ask their victims to send them cash or phone cards.

The Department of Trade and Industry Region 12 office, in advising the public to be vigilant against these text scams, points out:

1. Messages come from ordinary 11-digit cell phone numbers, e.g. 0917xxx-xxxx, 0919xxx-xxxx, 0922xxx-xxxx, etc.
2. Winners are asked for cash allegedly to pay for taxes, etc., to transfer a certain amount through banks or some other means, or send prepaid loads (or credits) to be able to claim the prize.
3. The subscriber wins without joining any contest or raffle.

### Cold hotline

A reader said an electrical post across their house in Mandaluyong City suddenly burst into flames recently, and the fire started to spread to the cables. They called up the Manila Electric Company's so-called hotline, 6311111, but it was apparently not so hot after all. They had to wait several minutes before the phone was answered.

Fortunately, they also called their barangay officials, and a fire truck arrived in about 30 minutes. "The Meralco people arrived after five hours... the whole neighborhood might have burned [down] by then," she said.

She is grateful to the good people of San Juan Barangay for being quicker on the draw than Meralco.

*(Our regular columnist, Marietta V. Giron, is indisposed. Please send letters to The Consumer, Lifestyle Section, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Mascardo and Yague Sts., Makati City; PO Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office, 1263 Makati; or e-mail lbolido@inquirer.com.ph —Editor)*

**IMELDA PARTIES AT FILOS.** The innovative restaurant at The Fort recently observed its first anniversary with special guests Lulu Tinio, Sonia Mathay, Dr. Teyet Pascual, Imelda Marcos, chef Ed Quimson, Billy King, Filos' owners Anne Guiyo and husband Dr. Raymond Guiyo, Prince Kiko Hohenloe and Ms Marcos' lawyer James Linn. The latter two flew in especially for the 77th birthday of Ms Marcos early last month. Behind is publicist Louie Cruz

ERNIE SARMIENTO

## DINING OUT

# Flavored rice, anyone?

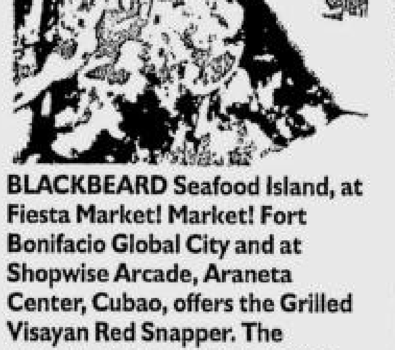
**METRO MENU** in Metrowalk offers a specialty menu of flavored rice inspired by different Philippine regions and other Asian countries. On offer are Fragrant Coconut, Vinegared Rice, Indian Biryani Rice and Turmeric Rice. Other house specialties are California Shrimp Salad, Tender Beef Stroganoff and Menu Spanish Seafood, among others. The two-story Metro Menu has function rooms named after wines. The whole restaurant can accommodate 200-250 people. Metro Menu is at Metrowalk, Ortigas. Call 6334445 or 6317025. E-mail menu_metrowalk@yahoo.com

**DIAMOND HOTEL'S** Yurakuen Japanese Restaurant offers the Hazuki Set this month for P1,100++. It includes appetizer, salmon sashimi, bean-curd steak, and three main dishes of *gindara* teriyaki, crab *teppan*, fried shrimp and crab tempura with seafood fried rice. Diners also get *miso* soup and a dessert of sweet mango with ice cream. Call 5283000.

**THE OAKWOOD** Premier Ayala Center has breakfast buffet 6:30-10:30 a.m. The buffet includes nuts, breads, eggs, cold cuts, pancakes, cheeses, fresh fruits and many more. Call 7298888.

**TACO BELL'S** Big Bell Value Menu introduces three new products: Beef and Potato Burrito, Cheesy Fiesta Potatoes and, for dessert, Churros. Taco Bell is at G/L and 3/L, Food Express, Gateway Mall; G/F, SM South Mall; and E. Rodriguez Avenue, QC.

**KITARO** offers "Meals for 2," four different set meals at affordable prices. Set A: Fried Tofu and Yakisoba for P200; Set B: eight pieces California Maki, Tofu Steku and two plain rice for P230; Set C: Chicken Teriyaki, Kakiage Tempura plus two plain rice for P250; and Set D: Sukiyaki, Kakiage Tempura plus two plain rice for P270. For delivery, call 9111115.



**BLACKBEARD** Seafood Island, at Fiesta Market! Market! Fort Bonifacio Global City and at Shopwise Arcade, Araneta Center, Cubao, offers the Grilled Visayan Red Snapper. The restaurant's bestsellers include Boodle Feast: Dapitan's Pride, Magellan's Landing, Bento Boodle, Manila Bay and All-crab Boodle. Call 9135701 or 8867692.

**HEAVEN 'N Eggs** introduces the new Heaven's Dinner Baskets: the Steak Fingers 'N Calamari Rings and Heaven's Fish 'N Chips Basket. Also available are the Basket of Chickies, Brazil vs Germany, Chicken Teriyaki and Tempura Basket. Heaven 'N Eggs has branches in CKB Building on Tomas Morato, QC; G/F, Glorietta 4; Fuente Circle in Eastwood City; and Fiesta Market! Market!

**CRUSTASIA** at G/L, Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Makati, and 3/F, The Podium, 18 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, features Baked Mussels with Mango Shallots. Must-try dishes include Crab Maritess, Fidel's Pepper Crab, Szechuan Crab and Yong's Curry Crab. Call 7285463 or 6313857.

# A paper chase and a search for frozen spinach

**KITCHEN RESCUE**

*Reggie Aspiras*

SO MANY UNANSWERED questions and requests! So today is the day to deal with backlog! So sorry!

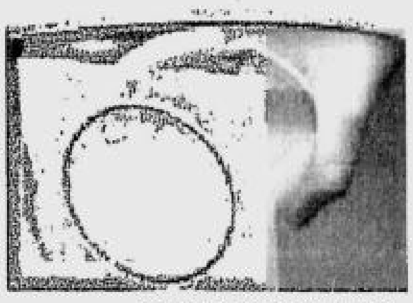
**I saw a recipe for fish *en papillote* that calls for the use of parchment paper. Since parchment paper is not available here in the province, what substitute can I use? I understand aluminum foil won't work as it may react with the acids.**

HONEY

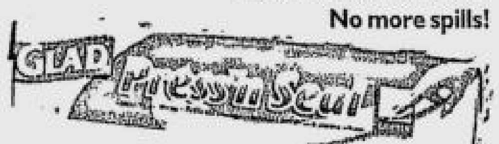
Aluminum foil may be used as a substitute but it all depends, of course, on the ingredients. If there are tomatoes, acid or even onions, it would not be a good idea. The best substitute would be wax paper or Glad's bake paper.

Speaking of Glad, if you love cling wraps, zipper bags and the like, you must get yourself Press'n Seal. It's actually a sealable plastic wrap. It seals on a multitude of surfaces, even paper, wood, metal, styro containers and glass.

First time I got it, I put water in styro cups, sealed and inverted them, just to check if it really worked as shown in the photo on the package... and it did!



PRESS'n Seal! It works! No more spills!



**Wanted to prepare a spinach dip for my visitors but couldn't find frozen chopped spinach. Can you please tell me where I can buy it? If there's none here in Manila, can you tell me what I can substitute for it?**

SHIRLEY

Unimart, Rustan's or Santi's! However, if you are desperate, you can substitute Chinese spinach. It's called *polonchay*. Blanch it first then squeeze dry. Freeze until it is needed then thaw, reblanch and squeeze dry again just before making your dip. Unfortunately, our local spinach is a tad grainy for the dip.

**I'm 25 years old and a single mom. I'd love to have some "sideline" *sana*, you know, for extra income. I love to cook and will try anything that you suggest.**

AEGI CO

I really have no idea what it is you have in mind nor do I know what your level of cooking skill is, but I think *polvoron* is a good way to start. I've featured a recipe before on KR but this is a variation that's delicious. Besides, there are a couple of *polvoron* requests. It's easy and needs very little capital. Do these perfectly and you will be so rich. When you're rich, the men won't let you stay single for long! All the best to you!

### Chocolate-dipped Mixed Nut Polvoron

2 ¾ cups flour
2 ¼ cups powdered milk
1 cup pulverized nuts of choice (I use 2 different kinds in half-cup increments. I like pine nuts and almonds or walnuts)
1 ½ cups sugar
1 ½ cups butter, melted

In a pan, toast flour and nuts until fragrant. Keep mixing to avoid uneven toasting or burning. The more you toast, the nuttier the flavor. I like mine just slightly toasted. Cool mixture slightly.

Add the rest of the ingredients, mixing well until all flour grains are visibly coated in butter.

**Mold.** Dip *polvoron* in melted chocolate.

Melt chocolate over a double boiler (bittersweet, white or milk). You can get all sorts of chocolates from Sweet Craft (5321595).

Let chocolate set on a rack and wrap.

**Can I have your recipe for Korean beef stew? Re *lechon kawali*, if I use pressure cooker and turbo broiler, what changes will I have to make?**

WILMA AGUDO

Truth of the matter is I hardly use a pressure cooker and never use turbo. For the pressure cooker, the procedure remains the same, only cooking time varies. For those asking if the same technique is used for crispy *pata*, yes it is!

### Kalbitchim (Korean Beef Stew)

1 k beef ribs
3 tbsp sugar
2 tbsp sesame oil
2 tbsp rice wine
½ cup soy sauce
1/3 cup garlic
1 cup green onions, sliced
Combine ingredients.
Marinate beef overnight.
4 tbsp oil
water

Heat oil and sear marinated beef.

Pour marinade.

Add enough water just to submerge beef.

Simmer over low heat until tender.

Season to taste with sugar, salt, pepper.

Garnish with green onions and sesame seeds.

**A few weeks back, I saw your recipe for corndogs. I've been trying to get my hands on cornmeal but couldn't find any at regular supermarkets. Could you kindly tell me where I can get them?**

TED BONPIN

Polenta is cornmeal and cornmeal is polenta. Let it not be confused with *Masa Harina* though. *Masa Harina* is a special kind of corn flour used to make tortillas. It is also known as polenta. There are two kinds of polenta: steel ground, which means husk and germ have been removed (commonly available), and stone ground (available at health stores), ground with hull and germ, though this kind tends to have a shorter shelf life. I prefer the fine polenta for the corndog.

Well, Ted, again, Unimart (used to find them beside the oatmeal), Rustan's and, when all else fails, Santi's Deli.

**If it is possible, could I kindly have contact details of Art Manuntag and Alex Edralin? I am interested in booking these performers.**

KRISTINE SANCHEZ

You're not alone. People have been asking for their numbers, too. Here they are: Art, 0920-9209051; Alexis, 0917-7500107. When they sing, it feels like heaven!

*E-mail the author at raspiras@inquirer.com.ph*

## Pot roasts & burgers

THE REGGIE ASPIRAS School of Culinary Arts will conduct the following classes:

Aug. 11: Pot Roasts—Four delicious recipes, yet none alike—Classic Pot Roast with Pilaf, Garlic Loaded with Garlic Boursin Creamed Potatoes Italian-style, with fresh pasta with parmesan and butter, Oriental with Noodles

Aug. 12: Burger Like Never Before (all new)—Homemade Bacon and Soft Bread, Best All-beef Burger, Chicken, Lamb, Mixed Meat, Honey-butter Glazed Corn on the Cob, Baked Beans, salad, sauces and condiments

Aug. 14: Delicious Fancy Salads (all new)—Millionaire's Salad of Lobster, Foie Gras and Duck Confit; Cold Noodle and Prawn Salad with Sesame Mayo Cream Dressing; Roasted Pear, Walnuts and Goat Cheese Soufflé; Beef with Paella of Couscous; Tiger Prawn Salad with Gazpacho

Aug. 16: Cheese '06 (all new)—Cheese and Liver Paté, Prawn Cheesecake, Goat Cheese and Prosciutto Salad with Pomegranate Dressing, Blue Cheese Chicken, Roasted Veal Chops with Cheese Risotto, Best Lemon Curd Cheesecake.

For complete schedule and inquiries, call 928-9296, 9273008, 6335162.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA

# Macho Manay

By Nini Valera

THE TRANSFORMATION OF Paolo Contis from macho to *manay* for his role in Viva Films' gay comedy "Reyna" begins with a two-hour makeup session with stylist Fanny Serrano.

"One of my concerns about the role was that I should look like a real woman instead of a gay in drag," Paolo said during his first session with Fanny. "[So] I asked for my own makeup artist. To my surprise, they gave me the best."

Fanny, 58, is no stranger to the task. For almost three decades now, even ordinary-looking women have become glamorous brides in his hands. Famous for his "no-makeup makeup," Fanny said he always aims for "works of art."

His artwork in Paolo is Chuvaneska, cross-dresser to Keanna Reeves' fake gay beauty in the movie.

When Fanny is done, Chuvaneska—of the smoky eyes, half-closed lids and glistening lips—emerges. She is a masterpiece.

"You know," Fanny told Paolo, "your role begins here. I've witnessed Tito Dolphy act like a woman even before he

MACHO/ D5

# 'Kubrador' gets an 'A'

By Marinel R. Cruz

The award-winning indie movie starts its metro theatrical run on Aug. 16

THE CINEMA EVALUATION BOARD (CEB) has given an "A" rating to "Kubrador"—a film that chronicles three days in the life of a jueteng collector—citing "effortless storytelling" as one of the reasons for the distinction.

The Jeffrey Jeturian movie is the first film to be given an "A" rating this year, according to CEB chair Christine Dayrit.

"'Kubrador' is technically excellent," Dayrit told INQUIRER Entertainment on Tuesday. "The characterization is well-developed. Its director is well-motivated and very keen on details. It may be a social commentary on jueteng, but it is not preachy."

## All-out support

The "A" rating entitles "Kubrador" to a 100-percent amusement tax rebate. As an added incentive, the CEB will pay for Jeturian and lead actress Gina Pareño's trip to the 11th Pusan International Film Festival in Korea on Oct. 15-18.

Dayrit said MLR Films, "Kubrador" producer, gets to reimburse from the CEB the $2,000 used for the movie's subtitling and the P65,000 spent for printing.

"Kubrador" is the first digital film to receive such support from the CEB," Dayrit pointed out. "We will also coordinate with the Department of Tourism and the Philippine consulate in Korea to help promote the film there. We hope Filipinos in Korea would be able to watch it."

Jeturian said he is very thankful to the CEB, as "this will help my producer recoup her investment."

Joji Alonso, executive producer, said her production team was "hoping for an "A" rating, but didn't expect it."

She added: "It's hard to determine how people here would react to it. Although people in other countries liked the film, we're still not sure if the reaction here would be the same."

Only last month, "Kubrador" bagged four of the five major awards in the Osian Cinefan Festival of Asian Cinema in New Delhi, India. The movie won Best Film, Best Director for Jeturian and Best Actress for Pareño, and brought home its second International Federation of Film Critics (Fipresci) jury prize.

Last week, "Kubrador" received its 12th international film fest invitation. It will be screened at the 2nd International Eurasia Film Festival in Antalya, Turkey, Sept. 16-23.

## Film market

The Pusan film fest will coincide

KUBRADOR/ D5

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**AUG 12 SAT 1:30 - 5:00PM - 8 NEW JUMBO COOKIES & BARS 1** - WHITE PLATTER-SIZED COOKIES; PEANUT BUTTER JUMBOS; BIGGIE FRISBEE COOKIES; CHOCO OATMEAL COOKIES; REVEL BARS; MACADAMIA NUT BARS; DECADENT BROWNIES; SUPER FUDGY BROWNIES.
**P1,800. BY ERNEST**

**AUG 14 MON 1:30 - 5:00PM - CHINESE ROAST PORK ASADO; CHICKEN W/ CHESTNUTS.** ROAST PORK SPARERIBS, TARO PUFF SHRIMPS, QUAIL EGGS W/ SHRIMPS & MUSHROOMS, FISH IN SWEET SAUCE; SMOKED SOY CHICKEN; GLUTINOUS RICE BALLS DIPPED IN COCONUT FLAKES PLUS MANY BONUS RECIPES!
**P1,800. BY SYLVIA**

**AUG 15 TUE 1:30 - 5:45PM - 8 NEW AUTHENTIC ITALIAN BREAD & PASTAS BY ERNEST. P2,500.** SOFT BREAD STICKS, FOCACCIA, CIABATTA, SAUSAGE CALZONE (TURNOVERS), STROMBOLI, FOUGASSE; SPAGHETTI CON VONGOLE (CLAMS), SPAGHETTI CON POLPETTE ALLA CASALINGA (GOLF BALL-SIZED MEATBALLS).

**AUG 16 WED 1:30 - 4:30PM - DELICIOUS CHICKEN CORDON BLEU W/ CREAMY SAUCE;** PAELLA NEGRA, SPICY SQUID RINGS IN GARLIC SAUCE, DEBONED LEMONY SOY CHICKEN ON WILD RICE; ORIENTAL SPRING ROLLS W/ SWEET CHILI SAUCE, EASY TIRAMISU.
**P1,800. BY SYLVIA**

**AUG 17 THU 1:30 - 5:30PM - AUTHENTIC ITALIAN COOKING 1. BY ERNEST. P2,500.** MOZZARELLA IN CAROZZA (FRIED CHEESE SANDWICHES); RISOTO CON SCAMPI (RICE W. PRAWNS); POLLENTA PASTICICCIATA (CORNMEAL W/ WHITE SAUCE); PETTI DI POLLO ALLA BOLOGNES (BONED CHICKEN BREASTS W/PROSCIUTTO & CHEESE), BISTACCA ALLA PIZZAIOLA (BEEF TENDERLOIN STEAKS W/ TOMATOES & GARLIC); CASSATA ALLA SICILIANA (SICILIAN LAYERED CAKE W/ CHEESE & CHOCOLATE ICING).

**AUG 18 FRI 1:30 - 4:30PM - MONEY MAKING CHINESE FASTFOOD RECIPES.** WONTON NOODLE SOUP, DELICIOUS MAKIO SOUP; STIR FRIED LOMI; KUTCHAY DUMPLINGS W/ EASY TO MAKE HOMEMADE WRAPPER, PORK CURRY RICE; AUTHENTIC CHINESE STYLE SHRIMP FRIED RICE.
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**AUG 19 SAT 1:30 - 5:15PM - 9 NEW SPECIAL COOKIES & BARS 2. BY ERNEST. P1,800.** MISSISSIPPI MUD BARS, ROCKY ROAD BROWNIES, CHUNKY OATMEAL BARS; HEAVENLY DATE BARS; PEANUT BUTTER BROWNIES; MARSHMALLOW COOKIES, RICOA CHOCO IN FLAKY CUPS, PANDAN CRESCENTS, RUM BALLS

**AUG 22 TUE 1:30 - 5:30PM - FRENCH CAKES, PASTRY & DESSERTS 1. BY ERNEST. P1,800.** PARIS-BREST, CHOCOLATE GENOISE W/ GANACHE (RICH CHOCOLATE SPONGECAKE W/ FILLING); REINE DE SABA (QUEEN OF SHEBA CAKE); CREME BRULEE, CHOCOLAT POTS DE CREME (SMOOTH CHOCOLATE MOUSSE).

**AUG 23 WED 1:30 - 4:30PM - CHINESE COOKING. SAVORY STYLE FRIED CHICKEN;** ROAST MONTEREY PORK LIEMPO, MRS OLIVIA TEE'S FOOKIEN STYLE AMOY FRESH LUMPIA, PORK SIOMAI W/ QUAIL EGGS, HONGKONG SHRIMP SIOMAI; HACAO (SHRIMP DUMPLING W/ HOMEMADE CLEAR WRAPPER).
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**AUG 24 THU 1:30 - 5:00PM 7 NEW SPECIAL COFFEE SHOP COOKIES BY ERNEST. P1,800.** WAFER THIN COOKIES, CINNAMON CRINKLES, PISTACHIO CHIP COOKIES; WHOLE GRAIN SUNFLOWER COOKIES, FLORENTINES; PRETZEL-SHAPED COOKIES, CHOCO-COCO MACAROONS; SNICKERS

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STUDENTS of The Halili-Cruz School of Ballet

# Marvin's twins are 'opposites'

DOLLY WOOD

*Dolly Ann Carvajal*

NO MATTER HOW BIG MARVIN **Agustin**'s name has grown in the biz, it's good to know that he has not outgrown our friendship. Even if we haven't seen each other for quite sometime, rekindling of ties is unnecessary.

**Ruffa Mae Quinto**, his leading lady in Octoarts Films' "Oh My Ghost," shares the same sentiment. They are reunited on screen after four years.

"*Sayang! Nasingitan ako ni* **Erik (Santos)**. *Dinadaan ko kasi lahat sa biro. Di alam ni* Peachy *seryoso na pala ako nun*," sighs Marvs.

Peachy and Marvin almost became lovers after she split up with Rudy Hatfield. Despite their thwarted romance, they have developed a camaraderie that was put to good use in this new movie where they play husband and wife. But settling down in real life is the farthest thing from Marvin's mind. It's fatherhood he is focusing on first.

"My sons are turning one on Aug 15. *Ka-aliw na kahit* twins *sila*, they are opposites. Sebastian is more sociable. Santiago is *suplado*. I will allow them to join show biz if they want to but I want them to finish their studies first. I will also find time to finish college so I'll be a good example to them. I'm lucky that their mom Tet (a pre-school teacher who's five years older than Marvs) is understanding. She's not pressuring me to get married. There will be a proper time for that."

But as far as his career is concerned, Marvin's time has come. From a matinee idol, he has metamorphosed into one of the most versatile actors around. After 10 years in the industry, Marvs remains too marvelous for words.

## Just asking

- Could it be true that **Borgy Manotoc** got peeved at **Jay-R** because his GF **Ornussa Cadness** told him that if he irritates her, she always has Jay-R to turn to? Maybe she said that in jest but aren't jokes half-meant? Did that trigger their infamous brawl at Embassy? Not too long ago, it was **Alicia Mayer** who caused a commotion in the same club. Whatever happened to protocol that the name of the bar connotes? Or are they giving out visas for trouble there?
- Has **Jennylyn Mercado** become so allergic to intrigues? A colleague went to her house for an interview but she refused to come out of her room. She even turned hysterical! Perhaps she was just having a bad day. By now, Jen ought to know that intrigues are an occupational hazard. It's a given, so every star just gotta forgive 'em.
- After my item about the print ad of **Jericho's** love child **Santino** came out, I got swamped with e-mail. Readers claim that Echo has another kid and it's unfair that he only acknowledges Santino. Does this call for a paternity or polygraph test?
- Guess who this actress-host is. While fitting her gown, the couturier asked where exactly her nipples are. He needed it for the right measurements. She flared up: "*Di ka mananahi! Baket mo tinatanong yan?*" He snapped back: "I'm not a *mananahi*. I'm a designer!" Then he walked out. A dramatic exit indeed that floored all the drama queens around who were also having their gowns fixed.

## Nostalgic mood

I had such a delightful afternoon watching the winning performances of the students of The Halili-Cruz School of Ballet. (1227 Quezon Ave., 4130804). It put me in a nostalgic mood. I remembered my mom who used to be a ballet teacher before she joined show biz. I was one of her students. Maybe that's why I somehow have grace... under pressure.

The ballet students bagged five perpetual trophies, 18 gold medals, 23 gold, nine silver and eight bronze trophies at the Asia Pacific Dance Competition held in Singapore last July 22 and 23. The dancers won in all categories—Classical, Neo Classical, Demi Character, National, Folk and Modern Contemporary. The Philippine delegation was headed by multi-awarded artistic director **Shirley Halili-Cruz**.

*For feedback, e-mail wateringhole-shangrila@yahoo.com*

# 'Impossible' dreams come true

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

LAST July 23, WE ATTENDED THE special Academic Convocation at the Ateneo de Manila University as guest of Tanglaw ng Lahi awardees Laurice Guillen and Marilou Diaz-Abaya. It was raining cats and St. Bernards, but we sallied forth to honor our esteemed film colleagues and friends.

We fully expected Laurice and Marilou to rise to the august occasion and come up with memorable responses after they were given their awards—and that's exactly what they did.

But the afternoon event turned out to be much more than that, because it introduced us to other awardees who have dedicated their lives to serving God and country in different fields—**Dr. Teofilo Bangayan, Elvira Lopez-Bautista, Fr. Eliseo Mercado, Dr. Conrado Dayrit** and **Socorro Cancio-Ramos**, and the relatives of posthumous awardees **Raymundo Punongbayan** and **Fr. Charlito Colendres.**

Father Colendres died in 2004 while rescuing people stranded in Infanta, Quezon, at the height of typhoon Winnie.

Punongbayan also saved many lives by warning them about the imminent explosion of Mt. Pinatubo. We were moved when his son shared personal anecdotes that underscored Punongbayan's selflessness and dedication.

We also appreciated Father Mercado's commitment to the peace process, and Lopez-Bautista's dedication to the use of television to help educate children all over the country.

Doctor Bangayan showed the way to a holistic effort to help the disadvantaged, by providing not just houses but also livelihood, education and spiritual and value formation.

The most senior awardee, Doctor Dayrit, wore his many achievements lightly on his shoulders, and charmed the audience with his humility and humor. His colleagues regard him as a Renaissance man, because he has involved himself in a wide range of disciplines—cardiology, the promotion of coco oil, herbal medicines, tuberculosis control, nutrition, hormones, anti-carcinogenics, etc.

The final awardee, National Bookstore head Socorro Cancio-Ramos, disarmed the audience most of all when she shared that she was "only" a high school graduate, and that her lifelong dream was to finish college.

That "impossible" dream was realized beyond the hardworking lady's fondest expectations when the Ateneo conferred on her the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*.

The awardee's joy at receiving the ultimate educational honor was infectious, and the audience cheered her with gusto. It's wonderful when "impossible" dreams are realized in so resoundingly triumphant a fashion.

That's the way the special day went. It was memorable not only for the awardees, but also for us in the audience, because it inspired us to similarly live our lives for others, the Ateneo way—and have a great time doing it.

## Film quotes

**Jeff Goldblum** in "The Big Chill": Don't knock rationalization. Where would you be without it? I don't know anybody who can get through the day without two or three juicy rationalizations. They're more important than sex—have you ever gone a week without a rationalization?

**Rod Steiger** in "Doctor Zhivago": There are two kinds of men, and that young man is one kind. He is high-minded, he is pure. He is the kind of man that the world pretends to look up to, but in fact despises. There is another kind, not high-minded, not pure—but alive!

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| SUKOB<br>PG13<br>1:15,3:25,5:35,7:45 | THE BREAK-UP<br>R13<br>2:55,5:10,7:25,9:40 | MIAMI VICE<br>R13<br>1:40,4:30,7:20,10:10 |

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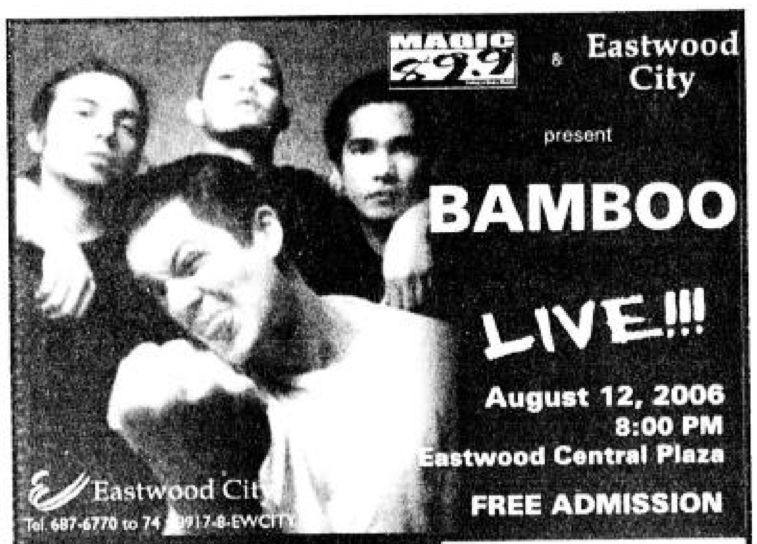

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| G4 GLORIETTA 4 | 1 | SUKOB |
| | 2 | STORMBREAKER |
| | 3 THX | MIAMI VICE 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS |
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| | 7 | JUST MY LUCK |
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| | 2 | CLICK |
| GB3 GREENBELT 3 | 1 THX | MIAMI VICE 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS |
| | 2 THX | CLICK 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS |
| | 3 | FIERCE PEOPLE 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS |
| | 4 | THE BREAK-UP 2:20, 4:30, 6:40, 8:50, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS |
| | 5 | SUKOB 2:35, 4:45, 6:55, 9:05, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS |
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| | 2 | MIAMI VICE |
| | 3 | SUKOB |
| | 4 | ANT BULLY |
| | 5 | STORMBREAKER |
| ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU | 1 | CLICK |
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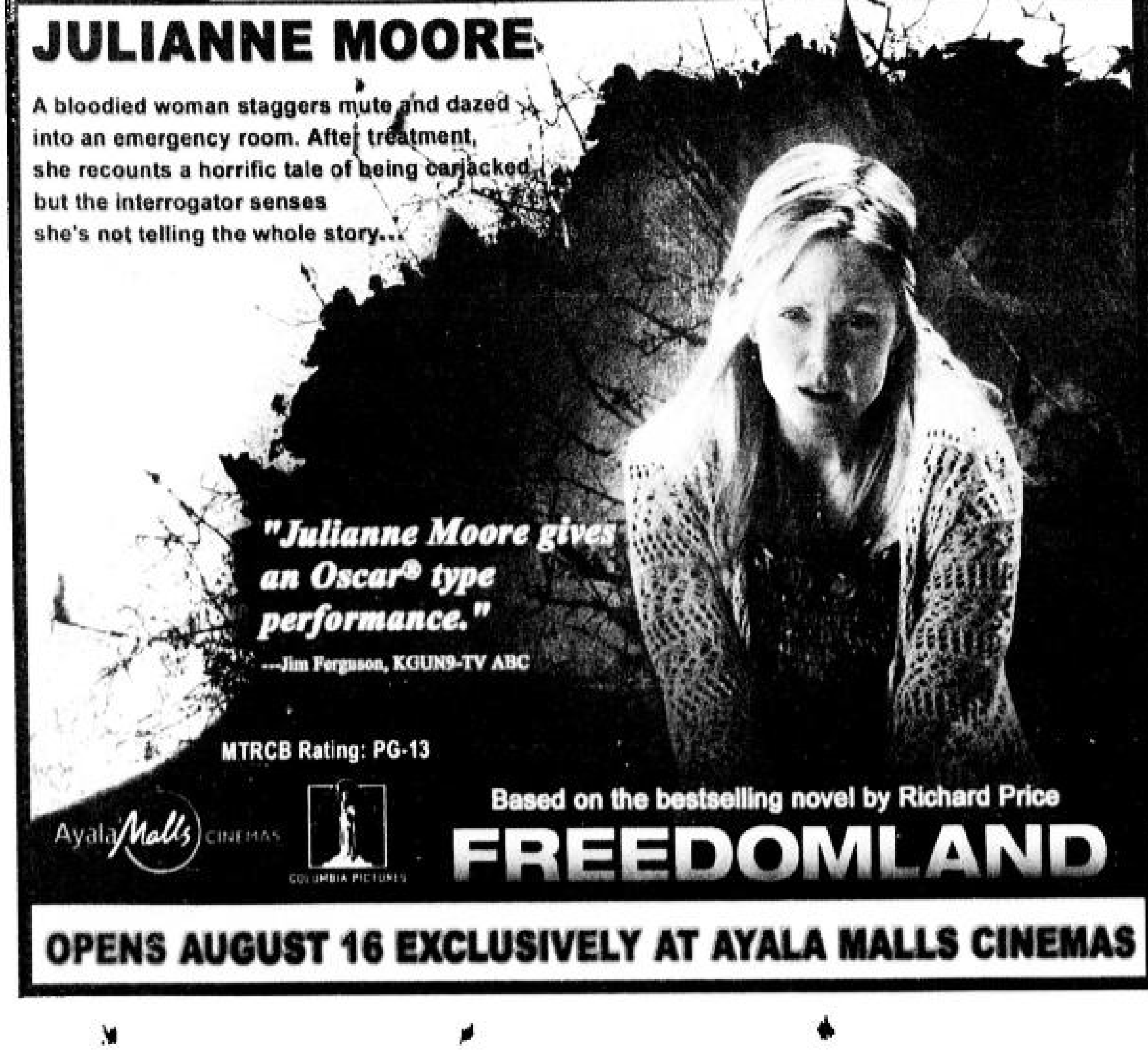

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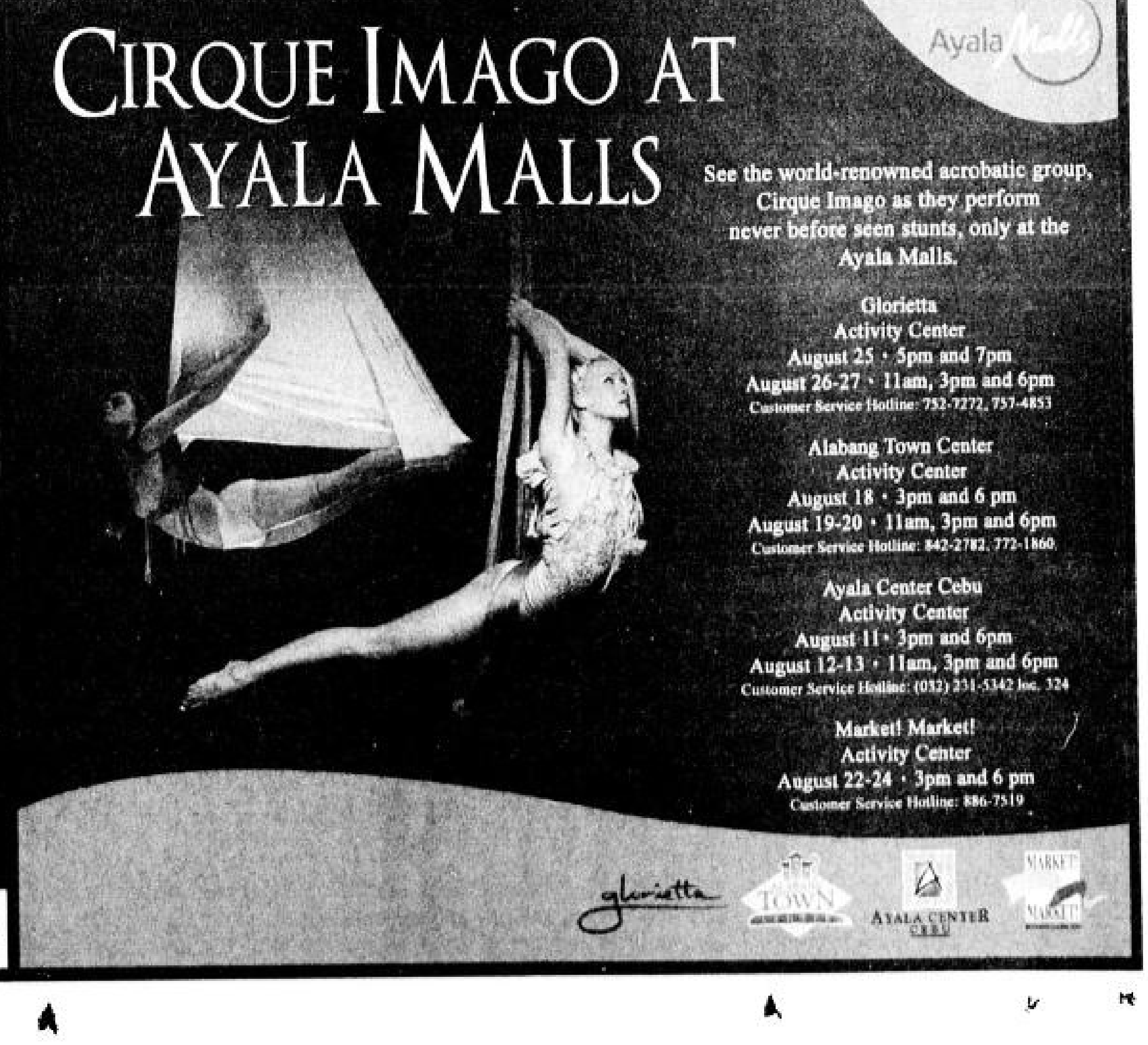

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INXS in the '80s, with the original frontman

# Hutchence biopic by 2 filmmakers

JD FORTUNE, the new lead singer

LOS ANGELES—INXS frontman Michael Hutchence, who died under mysterious circumstances in 1997, will be the subject of a new movie by two filmmakers who want to protect the Australian rocker's legacy, Hollywood media said Monday.

The project, "Slide Away," is being made by INXS video director Nick Egan and producer Clark Westerman, the Hollywood Reporter said.

The charismatic Hutchence was found dead in November 1997 in a Sydney hotel room, the apparent victim either of suicide or accidental death from asphyxiation. His death at 37 shocked fans across the globe.

Westerman said he decided on the project after the low rating recently received by a television show meant to pick Hutchence's successor as INXS lead singer.

"That is not the memory of what we are after, and that's not the story of who the man is. What we are aiming for is the journey through a person's life via their head," Westerman told the Hollywood Reporter.

The project's name comes from a posthumous duet that paired Hutchence with U2's Bono, the producer said.

Egan directed many of the videos from INXS' late-1980s and early-1990s heyday when the band dominated the charts with tracks like "Suicide Blonde," "Listen Like Thieves" and "New Sensation."

The reassembled INXS, with new frontman JD Fortune, is Manila-bound for a single-night gig Aug. 15 at the Araneta Colisuem. *AFP*

## Winston Wings presents Parokya

ELBOW ROOM MARKS ITS first anniversary today with a Winston Wings Tour presentation featuring Parokya ni Edgar. Guests have a chance to win prizes and exclusive freebies. Only those 18 and older will be allowed entry. IDs may be required as proof of age.

## FEEDBACK

### RP teachers in America

**From Edna Coia (ednapc@cox.net):**

Dear Mr. Ruben Nepales,

I read your article on the film Ramona Diaz is doing. It touched me so much, having been a school administrator in the Philippines and now, in a public school here in the US.

I married an American and fortunately landed the same job I had in the Philippines.

I also know some Filipino teachers who were part of the exodus in Maryland. I know how they feel, can identify with them and am very proud of what they are doing.

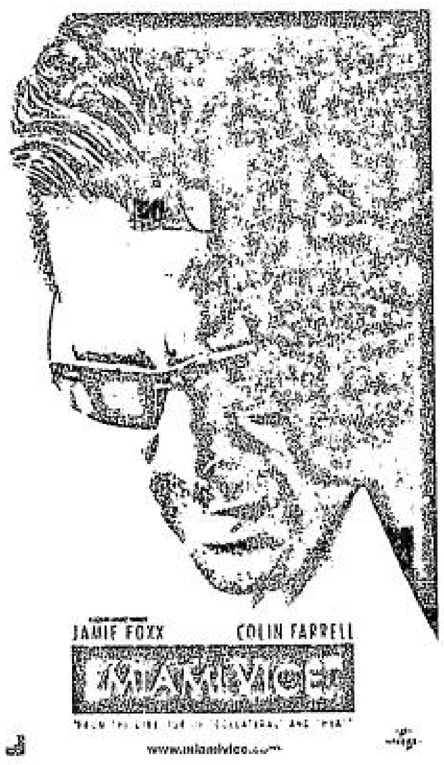
We Filipino teachers are the best wherever we are. We work very hard. Our understanding, compassion and love for teaching make us stand out.

Even the most disrespectful students here learn to respect Filipino teachers for they know in their heart how we value them. They know we see the potential in everyone, and that we care for them so much, we do not allow their misbehavior to jeopardize their learning.

The schools here in the US are better served because of us, Filipino teachers.

### About time

I also read a newspaper article that the government is set to increase the salaries of doctors, nurses and teachers. I must say it's about time, so no more teachers will have to leave our country. The salary is good here, no doubt, but there's no place like home. Most of us are here so we can send money back to help our families—not because we want to leave our country.



"MIAMI VICE" TRIVIA PROMO

Answer the "Miami Vice" trivia questions in our daily movieguide. Cut and drop entries at any Robinsons Movieworld branch on or before August 16.
Winners will get any of the following:

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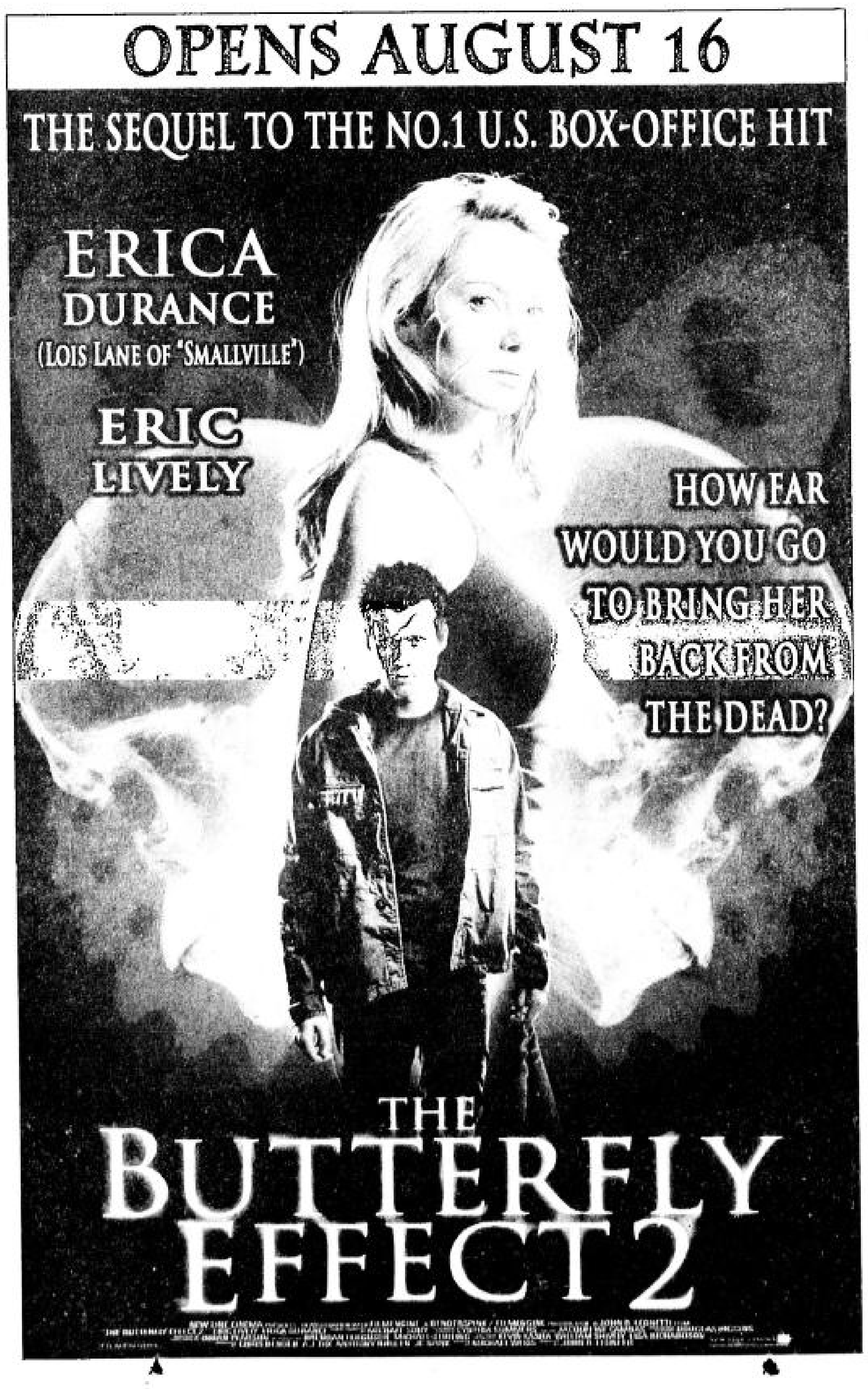

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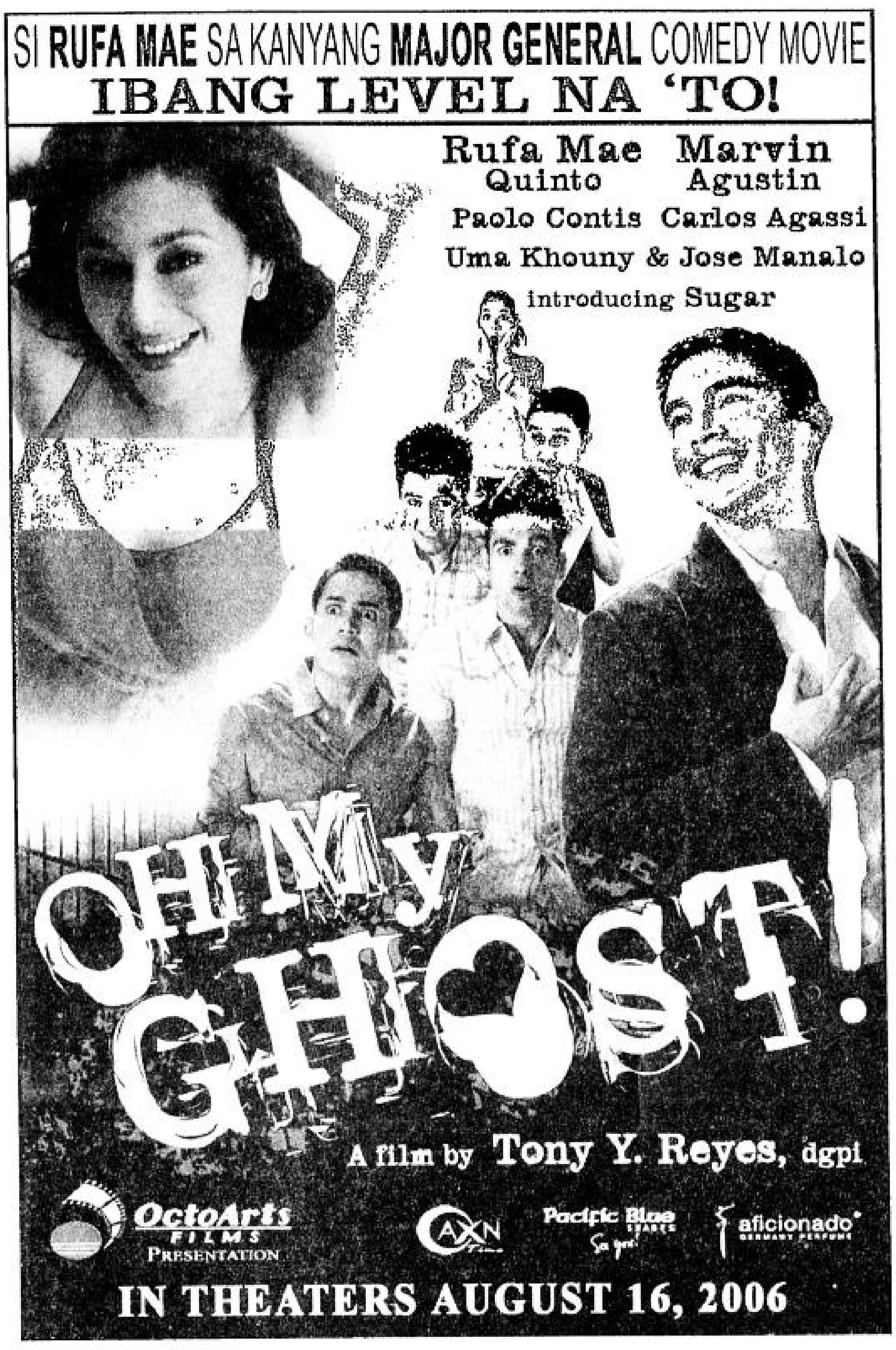
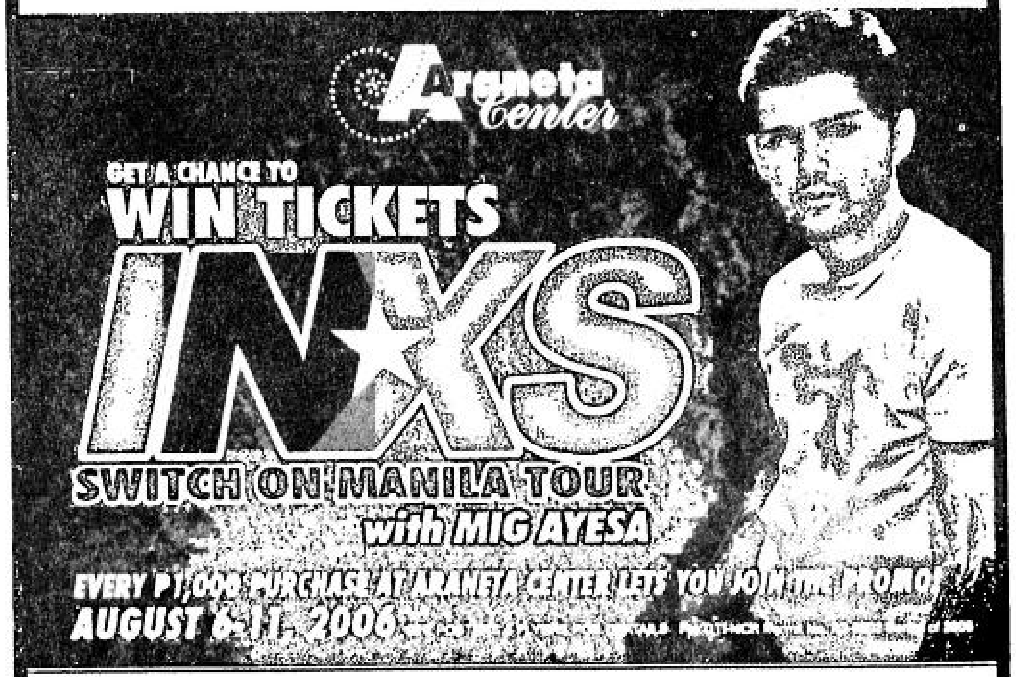
THE SEQUEL TO THE NO.1 U.S. BOX-OFFICE HIT
ERICA DURANCE
(LOIS LANE OF 'SMALLVILLE')
ERIC LIVELY
HOW FAR WOULD YOU GO TO BRING HER BACK FROM THE DEAD?
THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT 2



SI RUFA MAE SA KANYANG MAJOR GENERAL COMEDY MOVIE
IBANG LEVEL NA 'TO!
Rufa Mae Quinto Marvin Agustin
Paolo Contis Carlos Agassi
Uma Khouny & Jose Manalo
introducing Sugar
OH MY GHOST!
A film by Tony Y. Reyes, dgpi
OctoArts Films Presentation
AXN Pacific Blue aficionado
IN THEATERS AUGUST 16, 2006



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| SUKOB<br>12:55 / 3:05 / 5:15 / 7:25 / 9:35 | JUST MY LUCK<br>1:40 / 4:00 | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2<br>6:30 / 9:40 | |
| ANT BULLY<br>1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00 | MIAMI VICE<br>1:50 / 4:30 / 7:10 / 9:50 | THE BREAK - UP<br>2:00 / 4:20 / 6:40 / 9:00 | CLICK<br>2:10 / 4:30 / 6:50 / 9:10 |

Ali MALL 5

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|---|---|---|
| STORMBREAKER | CLICK<br>1:15 / 3:35 / 5:55 / 8:15 | PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2<br>12:00 R3 / 2:20 / 5:20 / 8:20 |
| SUKOB<br>12:10 R2 / 2:00 / 4:10 / 6:20 / 8:30 | MIAMI VICE<br>12:30 / 3:10 / 5:50 / 8:30 | DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS |

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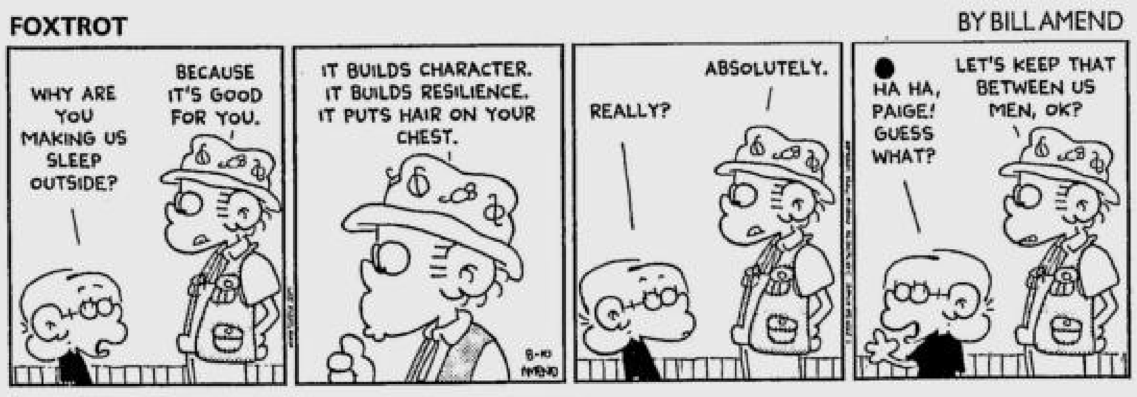
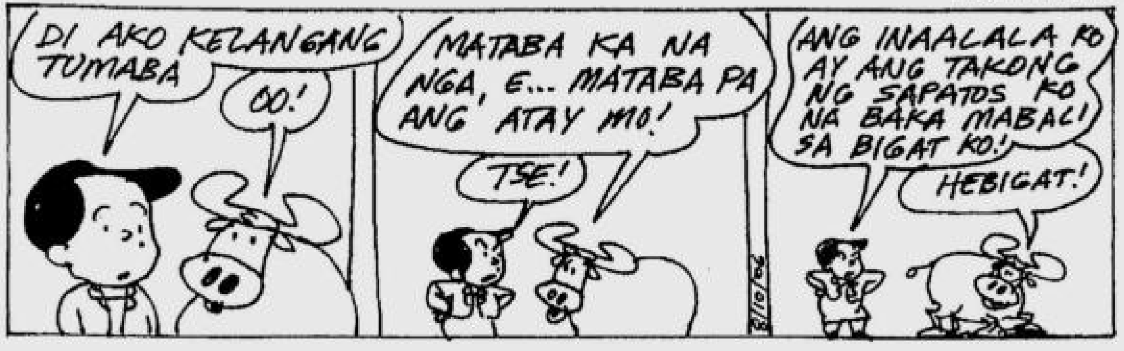
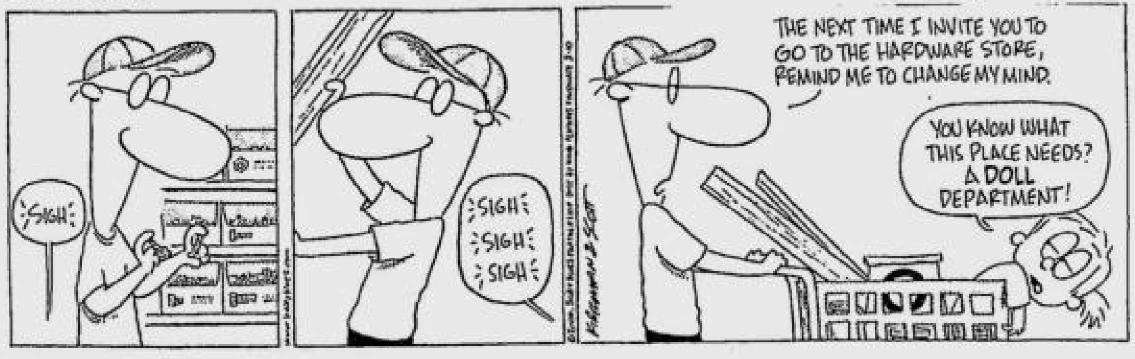
**FOXTROT** BY BILL AMEND


WHY ARE YOU MAKING US SLEEP OUTSIDE?
BECAUSE IT'S GOOD FOR YOU.
IT BUILDS CHARACTER. IT BUILDS RESILIENCE. IT PUTS HAIR ON YOUR CHEST.
REALLY?
ABSOLUTELY.
HA HA, PAIGE! GUESS WHAT?
LET'S KEEP THAT BETWEEN US MEN, OK?
8-10 AMEND

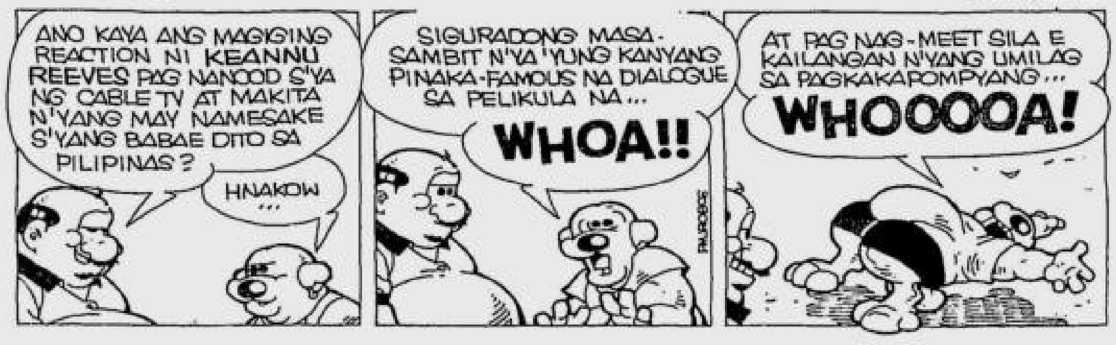
**A. LIPIN** BY JESS ABRERA


DI AKO KELANGANG TUMABA
OO!
MATABA KA NA NGA, E... MATABA PA ANG ATAY MO!
TSE!
ANG INAALALA KO AY ANG TAKONG NG SAPATOS KO NA BAKA MABALI SA BIGAT KO!
HEBIGAT!
8/10/06

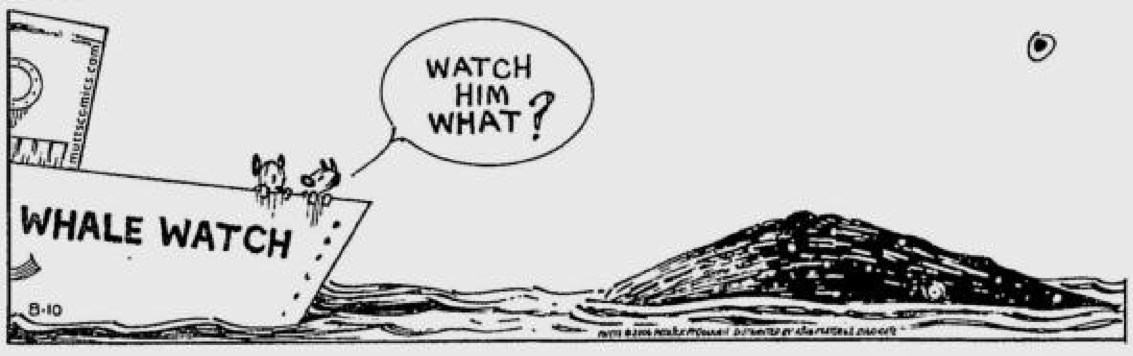
**BABY BLUES** BY JERRY SCOTT


SIGH
SIGH SIGH SIGH
THE NEXT TIME I INVITE YOU TO GO TO THE HARDWARE STORE, REMIND ME TO CHANGE MY MIND.
YOU KNOW WHAT THIS PLACE NEEDS? A DOLL DEPARTMENT!

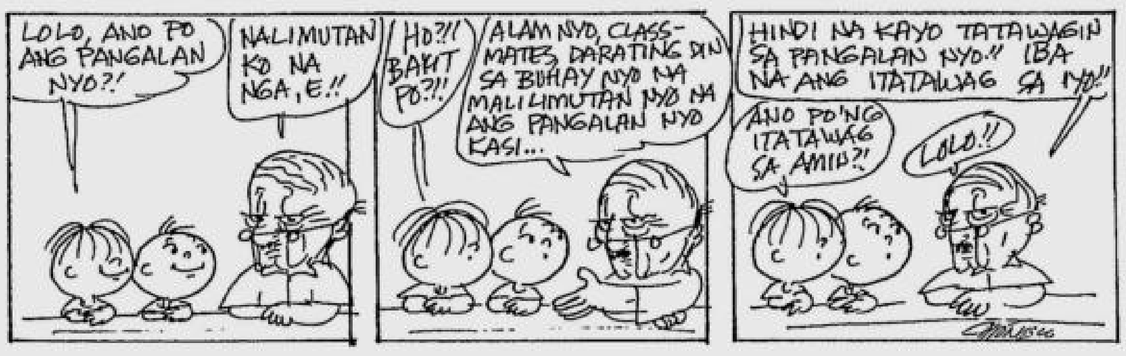
**PUGAD BABOY** BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO KAYA ANG MAGIGING REACTION NI KEANNU REEVES PAG NANOOD S'YA NG CABLE TV AT MAKITA N'YANG MAY NAMESAKE S'YANG BABAE DITO SA PILIPINAS?
HNAKOW ...
SIGURADONG MASASAMBIT N'YA 'YUNG KANYANG PINAKA-FAMOUS NA DIALOGUE SA PELIKULA NA...
WHOA!!
AT PAG NAG-MEET SILA E KAILANGAN N'YANG UMILAG SA PAGKAKAPOMPYANG...
WHOOOOA!

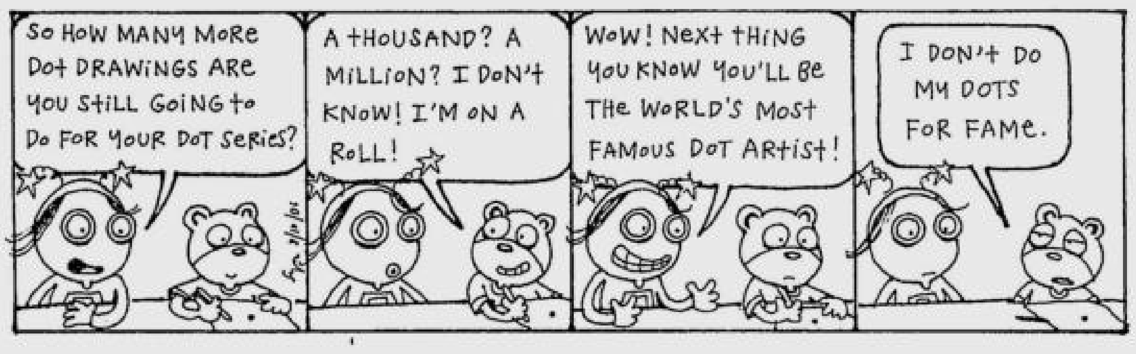
**MUTTS** BY PATRICK McDONNELL


muttscomics.com
WATCH HIM WHAT?
WHALE WATCH
8-10

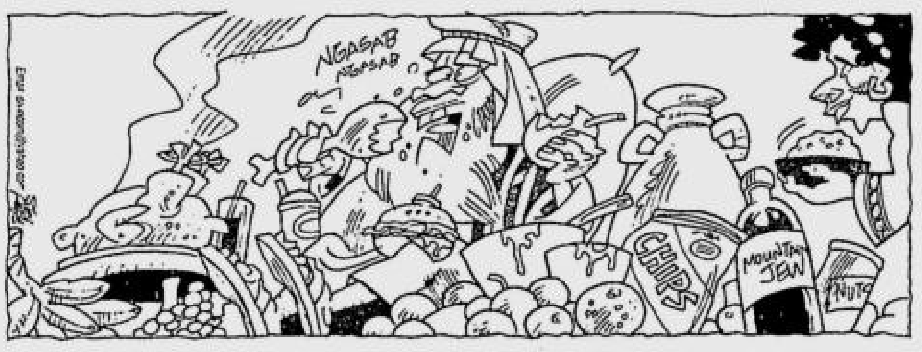
**LOVEKNOTS** BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


LOLO, ANO PO ANG PANGALAN NYO?!
NALIMUTAN KO NA NGA, E.!!
HO?!! BAKIT PO?!!
ALAM NYO, CLASSMATES, DARATING DIN SA BUHAY NYO NA MALILIMUTAN NYO NA ANG PANGALAN NYO KASI...
HINDI NA KAYO TATAWAGIN SA PANGALAN NYO!! IBA NA ANG ITATAWAG SA NYO!!
ANO PO'NG ITATAWAG SA AMIN?!
LOLO!!

**ATOMO AND WEBOY** BY LYRA GARCELLANO

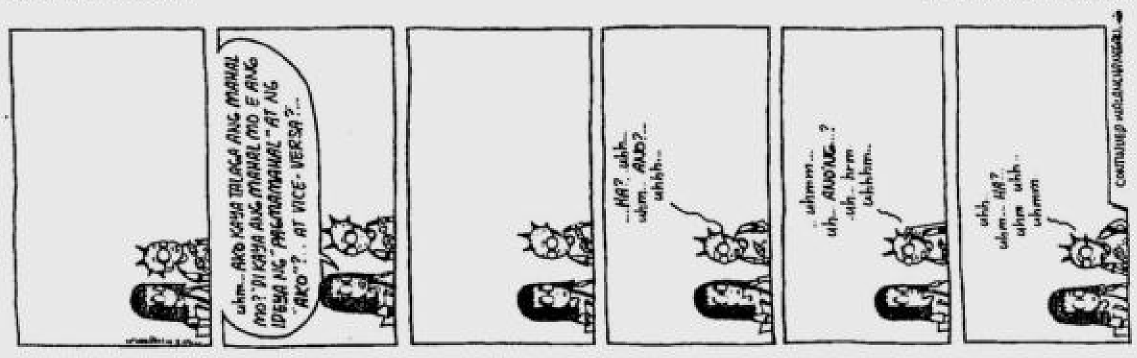

SO HOW MANY MORE DOT DRAWINGS ARE YOU STILL GOING TO DO FOR YOUR DOT SERIES?
A THOUSAND? A MILLION? I DON'T KNOW! I'M ON A ROLL!
WOW! NEXT THING YOU KNOW YOU'LL BE THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS DOT ARTIST!
I DON'T DO MY DOTS FOR FAME.

**DIVINE COMEDY** BY STEVEN PABALINAS

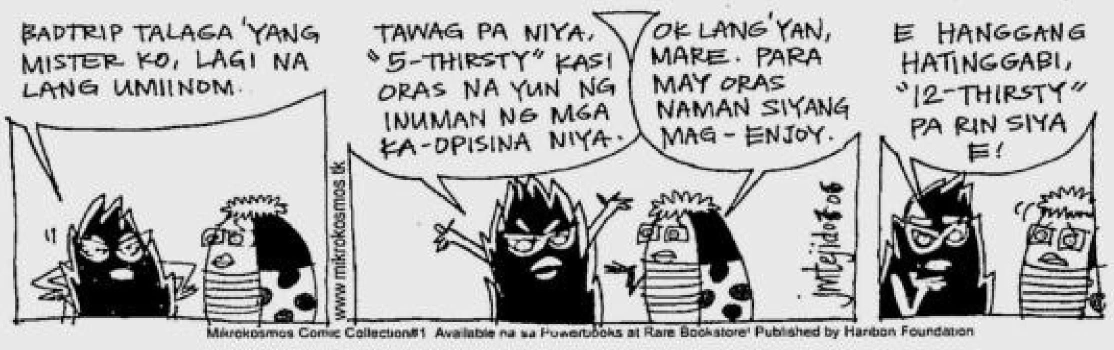

NGASAB NGASAB
CHIPS
MOUNTAIN JEW
NUTS

***THE DAY BEFORE MOSES STARTED HIS 40-DAY FASTING***

**KIKO MACHINE** BY MANIX ABRERA

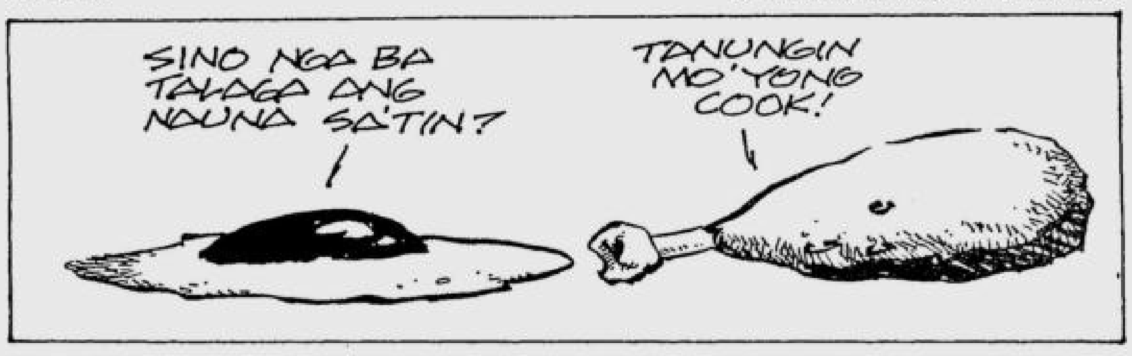

uhm... AKO KAYA TALAGA ANG MAHAL MO? 'DI KAYA ANG MAHAL MO E ANG IDEYA NG "PAGMAMAHAL" AT NG 'AKO'?.. AT VICE-VERSA?..
...HA? uhh... uhm... ANO?... uhhh...
...uhmm... uh... ANONG...? -uh... hrm uhhhm...
uhh, uhm... HA? uhm uhh.. uhmm

**MIKROKOSMOS** BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

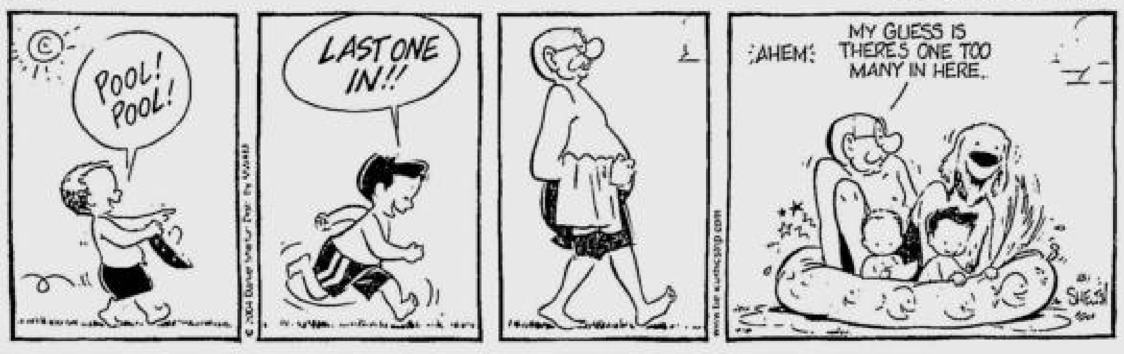

BADTRIP TALAGA 'YANG MISTER KO, LAGI NA LANG UMIINOM.
TAWAG PA NIYA, "5-THIRSTY" KASI ORAS NA YUN NG INUMAN NG MGA KA-OPISINA NIYA.
OK LANG 'YAN, MARE. PARA MAY ORAS NAMAN SIYANG MAG-ENJOY.
E HANGGANG HATINGGABI, "12-THIRSTY" PA RIN SIYA E!
www.mikrokosmos.tk
jmtejido 06

Mikrokosmos Comic Collection#1 Available na sa Powerbooks at Rare Bookstore! Published by Haribon Foundation

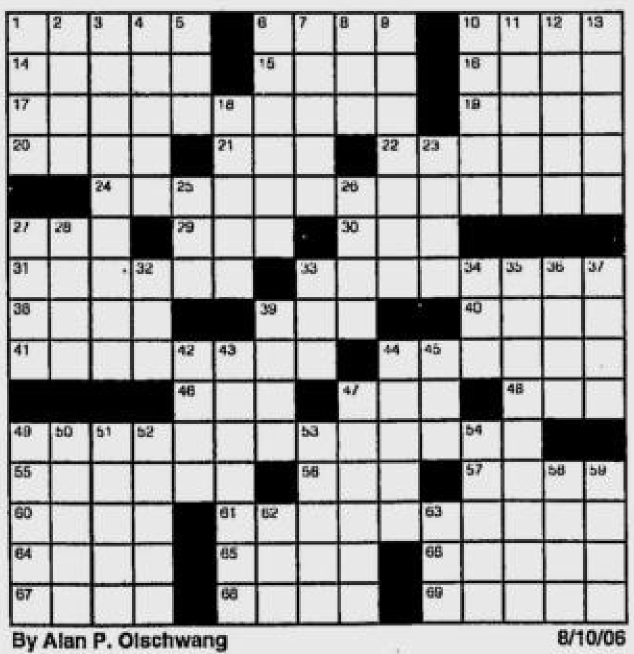
**TULDOK** BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


SINO NGA BA TALAGA ANG NAUNA SA'TIN?
TANUNGIN MO 'YONG COOK!

**BEN** BY DANIEL SHELTON


POOL! POOL!
LAST ONE IN!!
AHEM!
MY GUESS IS THERE'S ONE TOO MANY IN HERE.

## DAILY CROSSWORD



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
8/10/06

**ACROSS**
1 Body's trunk
6 Kuwaiti ruler
10 Grouch
14 Secret love affair
15 Zilch
16 Patriot Nathan
17 Start of Steven Wright quip
19 Like a couch potato
20 College credit
21 Olive product
22 Kind of pitcher
24 Part 2 of quip
27 Cigar end
29 __ kwon do
30 Old French coin
31 Diner seating
33 Preliminary calculation
38 Author of "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes"
39 Part 3 of quip
40 Blue dye
41 First or last page of a book
44 Groups of three
46 Deeply cut track
47 Singer /actress Zadora
48 Historic period
49 Part 4 of quip
55 Office pool members
56 Actor Mineo
57 Island wreaths
60 Dregs
61 End of quip
64 Coastal bird
65 Ancestral chart
66 Come to terms
67 Type of tube
68 Merit
69 Pairs

**DOWN**
1 Not permitted
2 Middle Eastern sultanate
3 Fabled thief
4 Connecting rooms
5 Mine's yield
6 Salad green
7 Smackers
8 B & B
9 Take back
10 Kind of pepper
11 Part of RCA
12 Writer Drury
13 Gripes
18 Soft drinks
23 Needle case
25 Fractional ending
26 __ la vie
27 Up to the assignment
28 Not much longer
32 Recipe abbr.
33 Belg. location
34 __ tal cocktail
35 Ben Stiller's mother
36 Cake layer
37 "Lohengrin" lass
39 Takes the odds
42 First name in folk singing
43 Throb
44 Name
45 College cheer
47 Fowl female
49 Small landmass
50 One cubic meter
51 Adolescents
52 Webster illustration
53 Organic compound
54 "__ Written in a Country Churchyard"
58 Frosted
59 Females of the species
62 Sing-along syllable
63 Spoiled

**Wednesday's Puzzle Solved**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | S | T | E | R | ■ | J | E | R | K | ■ | A | R | A | B |
| S | W | A | M | I | ■ | E | L | E | A | ■ | R | O | N | A |
| M | I | N | U | T | E | D | I | V | I | S | I | O | N | S |
| E | T | S | ■ | U | R | I | S | ■ | ■ | E | S | T | E | S |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | T | A | M | ■ | ■ | D | O | N | T | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | D | U | E | L | A | T | T | E | N | D | A | N | T | S |
| R | O | T | A | S | ■ | U | R | G | E | S | ■ | O | H | M |
| O | Y | E | S | ■ | S | T | A | R | S | ■ | O | T | O | E |
| M | E | R | ■ | C | L | O | S | E | ■ | A | L | I | N | E |
| A | N | O | T | H | E | R | H | E | L | P | I | N | G | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | H | E | W | S | ■ | ■ | I | P | O | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| I | N | E | R | T | ■ | ■ | P | E | A | R | ■ | R | B | I |
| V | O | T | E | S | F | O | R | A | M | O | T | I | O | N |
| A | S | T | A | ■ | R | I | O | T | ■ | V | A | P | O | R |
| N | Y | E | T | ■ | O | L | D | S | ■ | E | L | A | T | E |

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8/10/06

## HOROSCOPE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You're attractive, seductive and alluring. People want to be in your company. You add something positive to any social occasion. You have high standards of excellence, and you like to be appreciated. However, despite your popularity, you're a very private person. The year ahead could be one of the best years of your life. Expect a miracle. **Birthdate of:** Herbert Hoover, 31st US president; Antonio Banderas, actor; Rosanna Arquette, actress.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** Parents must be vigilant with children today. Guard against accidents related to poisons, liquids, chemicals, oil, gas and fumes. Romantic misunderstandings are highly likely

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** Discussions with parents and bosses are very confusing. (These conversations might be like two ships passing in the night.) Double-check all instructions. Make sure you're on the same page.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** Someone might not be truthful with you today. If you think something fishy is going on, it probably is. The possibility of deceit is very strong.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** Think twice before you spend your - hard-earned money today. For starters, make sure you have the money to spend. Some kind of financial confusion could leave you holding the bag.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** Relations with partners and close friends are very confusing today. You're not sure who you can trust. If you feel this way, say nothing and do nothing

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** Someone might say something that confirms your worst fears about yourself. It's not true. Today the Sun opposes Neptune, and when that happens, Neptune throws a cloud of confusion over everything. Hang in there!

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** If you feel that a friend is not on the level today, you could be right. Treachery and deceit are definitely possible today. Stay alert.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** Put your cards on the table when talking to parents, bosses or family members today. Do not do anything underhanded. If you try to get away with something, you'll be caught.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** Be very careful today. This is an accident-prone day. It's also an accident-prone day in terms of speech and understanding others. Chill out

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** This is a poor day to make long-range decisions about shared property. For one thing, you don't have all the facts. For another thing, you might not know who you can trust.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** Avoid important agreements with partners and close friends. Clarity is difficult to achieve; confusion is easy. In fact, deceit could be part of the picture. (Ouch.)

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** Double-check all your work today. You might also want to get a second opinion if you have a medical diagnosis. Much confusion exists everywhere today!

## CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** by Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 8 | | 3 | | 5 | | 1 | |
| 9 | | | | | | | | 8 |
| | | | 6 | | 9 | | | |
| 2 | | 1 | | | | 7 | | 3 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | 6 | | | | 2 | | 5 |
| | | | 5 | | 6 | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | | | 6 |
| | 9 | | 1 | | 4 | | 7 | |

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/10

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### HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

**Answer to previous puzzle**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 6 |
| 8 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| 6 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 9 |
| 7 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 5 |
| 1 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 7 |
| 2 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 3 |
| 9 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 1 |
| 3 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 4 |
| 5 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 9 | 2 | 8 |

Difficulty Level ★★★

# Macho Manay

From page D1

faced the cameras."

The coaching continued as Fanny set Paolo's shoulders in a perfect pose.

"Your left shoulder should always be slanted forward," he said. "Look down in a half-smile."

Whereupon, Chuvaneska donned a red shirt embroidered with tiny rose buds for the shoot.

"I feel comfortable in these clothes," Paolo told INQUIRER Entertainment during a shooting break.

It is not his first gay character. After all, he has made about 30 movies throughout a show biz career that started in childhood.

"I played a closet queen in 'Noon at Ngayon' (directed by Marilou Diaz-Abaya, 2003)," he said.

He confessed that he never aspired to be a matinee idol, despite his good looks from a mixed parentage (his father is pure Italian).

"Matinee idols fade away," Paolo mused, "but actors live forever."

**DAYRIT:** "Excellent."

**JETURIAN** happy for producer

**ALONSO:** "We didn't expect this."

# 'Kubrador'

From page D1

with the 1st Asian Film Market, also in Korea, where a Philippine delegation is set to attend. Directors Joyce Bernal, Cirio Santiago, Ray Malonzo, and producers Tony Gloria, Vincent del Rosario, Lily Monteverde, Tikoy Aguiluz have all agreed to participate, said Dayrit

Dayrit added that the $1,700 needed for the use of a 40-sq.m. booth at the film market will be shouldered by the Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP). "We will also produce a brochure and a video wherein all the films we will sell in the event will be listed," said Dayrit, who is also the FDCP vice chair.

Starting Aug. 16, "Kubrador" will be shown in theaters at SM Mall of Asia, Glorietta 4, Market Market, SM Megamall, Gateway Mall Cubao, Robinson's Ermita and Cinerama Recto.

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2 CLICK
3 FIERCE PEOPLE
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
5 STORMBREAKER
6 MIAMI VICE
7 JUST MY LUCK
8 SUKOB
9 THE ANT BULLY
10 THE BREAK-UP

**ERMITA** 536-7809 to 12

1 CLICK
2 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
3 THE ANT BULLY
4 MIAMI VICE
5 STORMBREAKER
6 FIERCE PEOPLE
7 SUKOB

**METRO EAST** 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 JUST MY LUCK
2 CLICK
3 STORMBREAKER
4 THE ANT BULLY
5 THE BREAK-UP
6 MIAMI VICE
7 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
8 SUKOB

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1 THE ANT BULLY
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 MIAMI VICE

**CITISQUARE MALABON** 288-2575

1 SUKOB
2 CLICK
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

**PIONEER** 687-5378

1 CLICK
2 STORMBREAKER
3 MIAMI VICE
4 SUKOB

"MIAMI VICE" TRIVIA PROMO

Kindly answer all questions completely.
Fill in the missing letters to complete the right answer

1. The creator of the Miami Vice TV Series
M_CH_EL M_NN
2. Plays the role of Sonny Crockett in the Miami Vice movie.
_OL_N FA_R_LL
3. Jamie Foxx plays this character in the movie.
R_CA_D_ T__BS
4. In the TV Series, who played the part of Caitlin, the woman Sonny Crockett marries?
SH_EN_ E_STO_
5. Miami is in what US State?
FL_R_DA

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SIGNATURE

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1 CLICK
2 SUKOB
3 CHAOS
4 LOVE WRECKED

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1 CLICK
2 THE ANT BULLY
3 SUKOB
4 THE BREAK-UP

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1 CLICK
2 WILD ORCHID 2
3 JUST MY LUCK
4 SUKOB

**IMUS** (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 CLICK
2 SUKOB
3 WOLF CREEK
4 THE BREAK-UP

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2 WOLF CREEK
3 JUST MY LUCK
4 SUKOB
5 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2
6 CLICK

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1 CLICK
2 SUKOB
3 THE ANT BULLY
4 WILD ORCHID 2
5 WOLF CREEK
6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN 2

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2 CLICK
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2 FIERCE PEOPLE
3 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
4 MIAMI VICE
5 JUST MY LUCK
6 STORMBREAKER
7 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
8 LADY IN THE WATER
9 ANT BULLY
10 SUKOB
11 THE BREAK-UP
12 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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1 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
2 LADY IN THE WATER
3 THE BREAK-UP
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
5 CLICK
6 STORMBREAKER
7 MIAMI VICE
8 ANT BULLY
9 SUKOB
10 WHITE LADY
11 JUST MY LUCK
12 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
3 MIAMI VICE
4 STORMBREAKER
5 SUKOB
6 THE BREAK-UP
7 JUST MY LUCK
8 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
9 WHITE LADY
10 SUPERMAN RETURNS

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1 CLICK
2 STORMBREAKER
3 MIAMI VICE
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 SUKOB
6 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

**SM NORTH EDSA** 929-5452
THE BLOCK
1 CLICK
2 STORM BREAKER
3 SUKOB
4 FIERCE PEOPLE
5 SUKOB
6 MIAMI VICE
7 STORMBREAKER
8 CLICK
9 FIERCE PEOPLE
10 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
11 ANT BULLY
12 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

**SM CITY MANILA** 523-9240
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2 FIERCE PEOPLE
3 MIAMI VICE
4 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
5 ANT BULLY
6 CLICK
7 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
8 THE BREAK-UP
9 JUST MY LUCK
10 WHITE LADY
11 SUPERMAN RETURNS
12 SUKOB

**SM CITY DASMARINAS** (046)4323201-04
1 CLICK
2 SUKOB
3 CHAOS
4 ANT BULLY

**SM VALENZUELA** 293-3917
1 CLICK
2 ANT BULLY
3 SUKOB
4 THE BREAK-UP

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3 THE BREAK-UP
4 CLICK

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2 THE BREAK-UP
3 STORMBREAKER
4 MIAMI VICE
5 CLICK
6 SUKOB
7 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
8 ANT BULLY

LUZON

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1 CLICK
2 JUST MY LUCK
3 SUKOB
4 LOVEWRECKED

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1 SUKOB
2 CHAOS
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1 ANT BULLY
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
5 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
6 JUST MY LUCK

**SM CITY PAMPANGA** (045)9637681-85
1 CLICK
2 JUST MY LUCK
3 ANT BULLY
4 TAMARA
5 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
6 SUKOB

**SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO** (046)474-3160
1 CLICK
2 ANT BULLY
3 TAMARA
4 SUKOB

**SM CITY STA. ROSA** (049)5341285-86
1 LOVEWRECKED
2 TAMARA
3 CLICK
4 SUKOB

**SM CITY CEBU** (032)231-3876
1 EVIL DEAD
2 CLICK
3 THE BREAK-UP
4 JUST MY LUCK
5 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
6 TAMARA
7 SUKOB
8 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

VISAYAS
MINDANAO

**SM CITY ILOILO** (033)3209422
1 LADY IN THE WATER
2 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN
3 SUKOB
4 ANT BULLY
5 CLICK
6 RESERVED
7 RESERVED
8 NACHO LIBRE

**SM CITY DAVAO** (082)2976998
1 CLICK
2 UMAARAW, UMUULAN
3 SUKOB
4 AMERICAN HAUNTING
5 JUST MY LUCK
6 PIRATES OF CARIBBEAN

**SM CITY CAGAYAN** (088)859-2884
1 AMERICAN HAUNTING
2 SUKOB
3 JUST MY LUCK
4 CLICK

SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE
*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

MMTA
METRO MANILA
THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

1 (DOLBY) CLICK
2 (DOLBY) STORMBREAKER
3 (DOLBY) SUKOB
4 (DOLBY) MIAMI VICE
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) ANT BULLY

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 CLICK
2 STORMBREAKER
3 SUKOB
4 MIAMI VICE

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 SUKOB
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) CLICK
5 STORMBREAKER

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 6433994
1 WILD ORCHIDS
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-2

THEATRES
1 WOLF CREEK
2 LOVEWRECKED
3 SUKOB

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271
1 SUKOB
2 CHAOS
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest
FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 STORMBREAKER
2 MIAMI VICE
3 ANT BULLY
4 CLICK
5 THE PRODUCERS
6 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN-2
7 SUKOB
8 JUST MY LUCK
9 THE BREAK UP
10 SUKOB

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) SUKOB
2 (DOLBY) STORMBREAKER
3 (DOLBY) CLICK
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) MIAMI VICE
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 STORMBREAKER
5 WILD ORCHID-2

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 NACHO LIBRE
2 SUKOB
3 TAMARA
4 RESERVED

CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 SUKOB
2 STORMBREAKER
3 ANT BULLY

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 CLICK
2 ANT BULLY

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 CLICK
2 SUKOB
3 JUST MY LUCK
4 THE BREAK UP

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBEAN-2
2 LAKE HOUSE

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) MIAMI VICE
2 (DOLBY) CLICK
3 (DOLBY) STORMBREAKER
4 (DOLBY) SUKOB

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 LOVEWRECKED
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 LOVEWRECKED
2 CLICK
3 SUKOB
4 CHAOS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 NACHO LIBRE
2 SUKOB
3 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN - 2

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 AMERICAN HAUNTING
2 WILD ORCHIDS
3 SUKOB
4 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN - 2

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 ANT BULLY
2 SUKOB
3 CLICK

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 SEE NO EVIL
2 NACHO LIBRE

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN
2 THE FAST & THE FURIOUSE-3

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 CHAOS
2 ISLA ASUL
3 NENA INOSENTE
4 TAMARA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 SUKOB
2 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
3 CLICK
4 LOVEWRECKED
5 BANDIDAS

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 LOVEWRECKED
2 SUKOB
3 CHAOS
4 CLICK

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 STORMBREAKER
2 PARAISO SA GUBAT

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

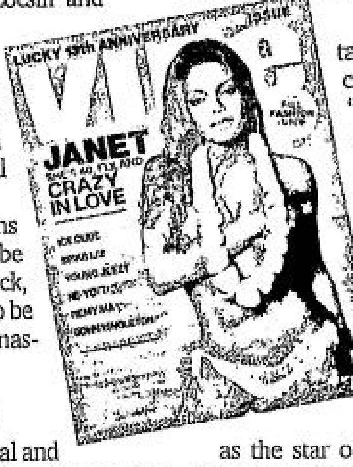
# ENTERTAINMEN

UMA THURMAN

## RUSHES

# Bakekang, Lastikman, Pedro Penduko & company

VHONG NAVARRO WILL PLAY THE lead in ABS-CBN's forthcoming "Lastikman" series. For GMA 7's "Bakekang," it's a toss-up between Angel Locsin and Jolina Magdangal (with Sunshine Dizon as dark horse.) ABS-CBN is also doing "Pedro Penduko," possibly with ... Franzen Fajardo! Rushes heard all these yesterday.



As a nation of movie fans and televiewers, we can't be faulted for not looking back, can we? In fact, it seems to be the one thing we've mastered, for good or ill.

### Piolo-Claudine soap

Done deal: Piolo Pascual and Claudine Barretto are doing a Kapamilya soap, for which they will shoot abroad, most probably in Australia.

### Bases covered

Pops Fernandez, on her "daring" FHM mag cover photo: "I made it clear that I wouldn't do anything that would bother [sons Robin and Ram], or put me in a bad light [in their eyes]." Presumably, the boys understood.

MONIQUE WILSON

### Filmmaker babe

Speaking of cover girls, Bianca Gonzalez says in Cosmopolitan that if she weren't an actress, she would be a filmmaker. She came close by being a filmmaker's girlfriend. Ex now.

### Time out

Celebs took time out to take their children to the recent special screening of "The Ant Bully" in 3D, at the San Miguel Coca-Cola Imax Theater at the SM Mall of Asia. Spotted were Michael V and his kids, and Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski with her little son.

### Sri Lanka gig

Monique Wilson, fresh from her success as the star of Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Aspects of Love" in Singapore," is set to perform in a charity concert at the Cinnamon Grand Hotel in Colombo, Sri Lanka, on Oct. 24. Joining her as special guests are 10-year-old singer Julia Abueva and actor/singer (and INQUIRER Saturday Special assistant editor) Rito Asilo.

### Beautyspeak

Bb. Pilipinas World 1996 Daisy Reyes and Mutya ng Pilipinas 2000 Josephine Ortiz are the celeb endorsers of Blanché beauty products, specifically the Skin Whitening Cream. Oh, that's why Daisy looks so much fairer than we remember!

### When she's 80

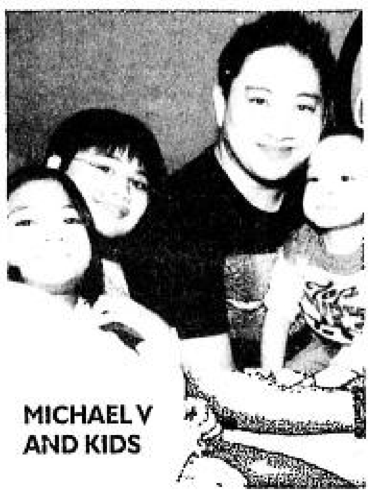
NEW YORK—Janet Jackson has never been afraid to expose some skin.

The 40-year-old singer, newly svelte after losing some 60 pounds, appears on the cover of Vibe magazine wearing a skimpy bikini bottom and a necklace made of large shells. Her right arm covers her breasts.

Will she ever stop posing for sexy photos? "Of course. When I'm 80," she tells Vibe. *AP*

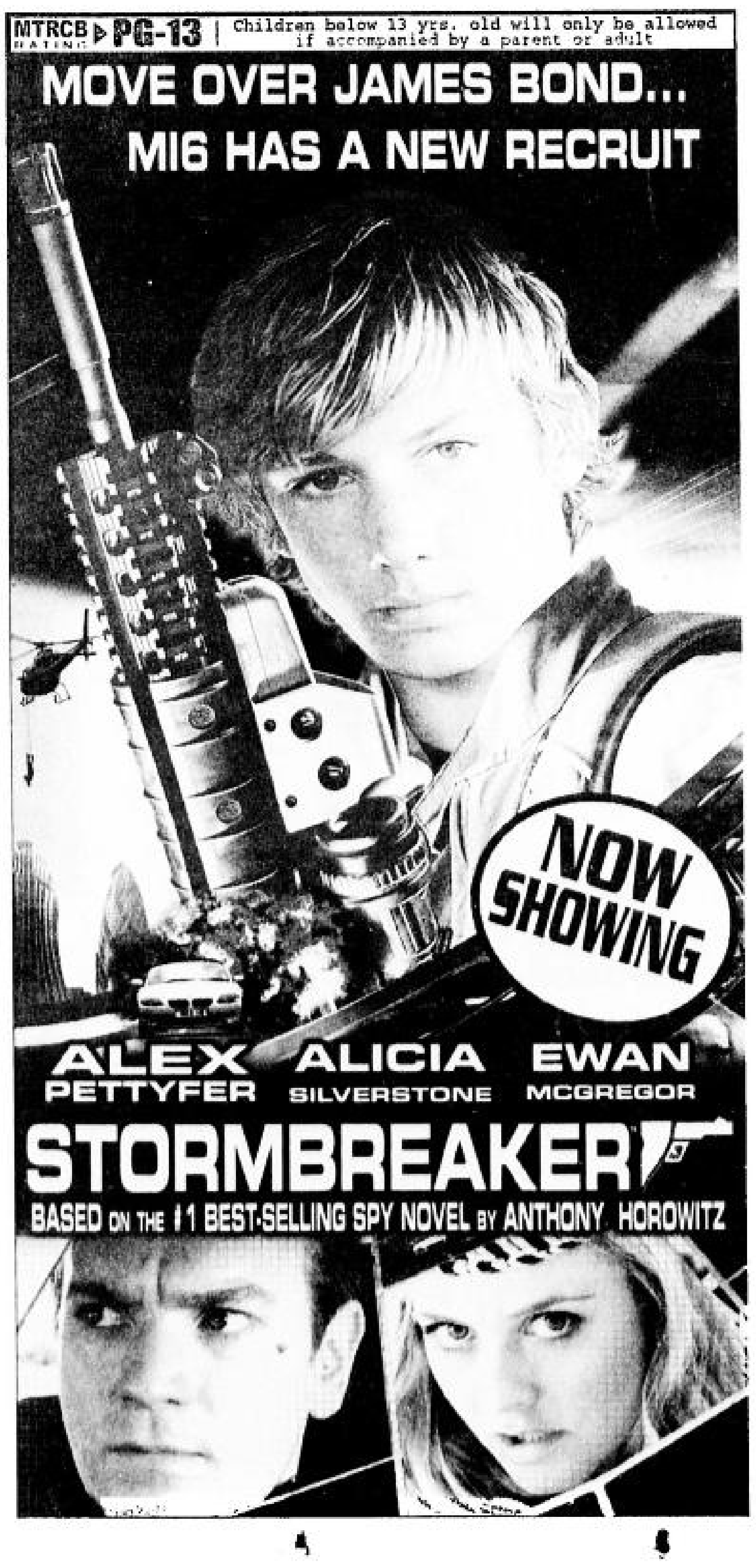
### Her whole life

Uma Thurman, on her role in "My Super Ex-Girlfriend": "I've been trying to bust into comedy business my whole life."


MICHAEL V AND KIDS

MIKEE WITH SON

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA
THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 MIAMI VICE 11:00 , 1:45 , 4:30 7:15 , 10:00 R-13
CINEMA 2 ANT BULLY 11:35 , 1:45 , 3:55 6:05 , 8:15 , 10:25 GP
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 CLICK 11:40 , 2:20 , 5:00 7:40 , 10:20 PG-13
CINEMA 4 STORMBREAKER 11:45 , 2:05 , 4:20 6:35 , 8:50 PG-13
CINEMA 5 CLICK 11:05 , 1:50 , 4:30 7:10 , 9:50 PG-13
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.
MUSIC MUSEUM
PROMENADE GREENHILLS
AUG 17,18 24,25 & 31 GARY V 8:00PM
AUG 26 2006 NONOY ZUNIGA 8:00PM
EVERY MONDAY DANCE NIGHT 7:00PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY CERRUDO . CLASSICO 8:00PM
AUG. 19 , 2006 PRIME COUNSEL 9:00PM
AUG. 24-26 , 2006 DAVID POMERANZ 9:00PM
FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC 116
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635


MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
MOVE OVER JAMES BOND...
MI6 HAS A NEW RECRUIT
NOW SHOWING
ALEX PETTYFER ALICIA SILVERSTONE EWAN MCGREGOR
STORMBREAKER
BASED ON THE #1 BEST-SELLING SPY NOVEL BY ANTHONY HOROWITZ

## ROUNDUP

### Asean film fest

TO CELEBRATE THE 39TH ANNIVERSARY OF the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Office of the Asean Affairs of the Department of Foreign Affairs have organized the 2006 Asean Film Festival.

The public is invited to the fest, which opens today at Cinema 2 of The Podium in Mandaluyong City with "Maicling Pelikula ng Ysang Indio Nacional," a collection of silent films directed by Raya Martin.

Other films to be screened are: "Ballad of Miniong's Minion," "Sikolohikal na Armas ni Juan dela Cruz," "Kultado," "Sabaw" and Blindness Within" from the Philippines; "The Lessons of Life" from Lao People's Democratic Republic; "The Hardship of Sand," "The Letters on Sea Waves" and "The Trumpet" from Vietnam; "Gie" from Indonesia; "Ayam Patah" and "Pontianak II" from Malaysia; "The Overture" from Thailand; "Raja Bori" from Cambodia; "The Caring King" from Brunei Darussalam; and "Singapore Gaga" from Singapore.

Call 527-2297 for the schedule. The festival runs until Aug. 13.

### Festival of sounds

Monster Radio RX 93.1 hosts "Festival of Sounds," featuring popular OPM bands and artists in party venues across the metropolis.

Acoustic and mainstream pop music take center stage on Aug. 12, with the party designed for call center professionals.

A celebrity shindig happens at Capone's on Aug. 25, with 10 lucky listeners and their friends claiming the privilege to an exclusive meet-and-greet with the RX family and the hottest OPMstars.

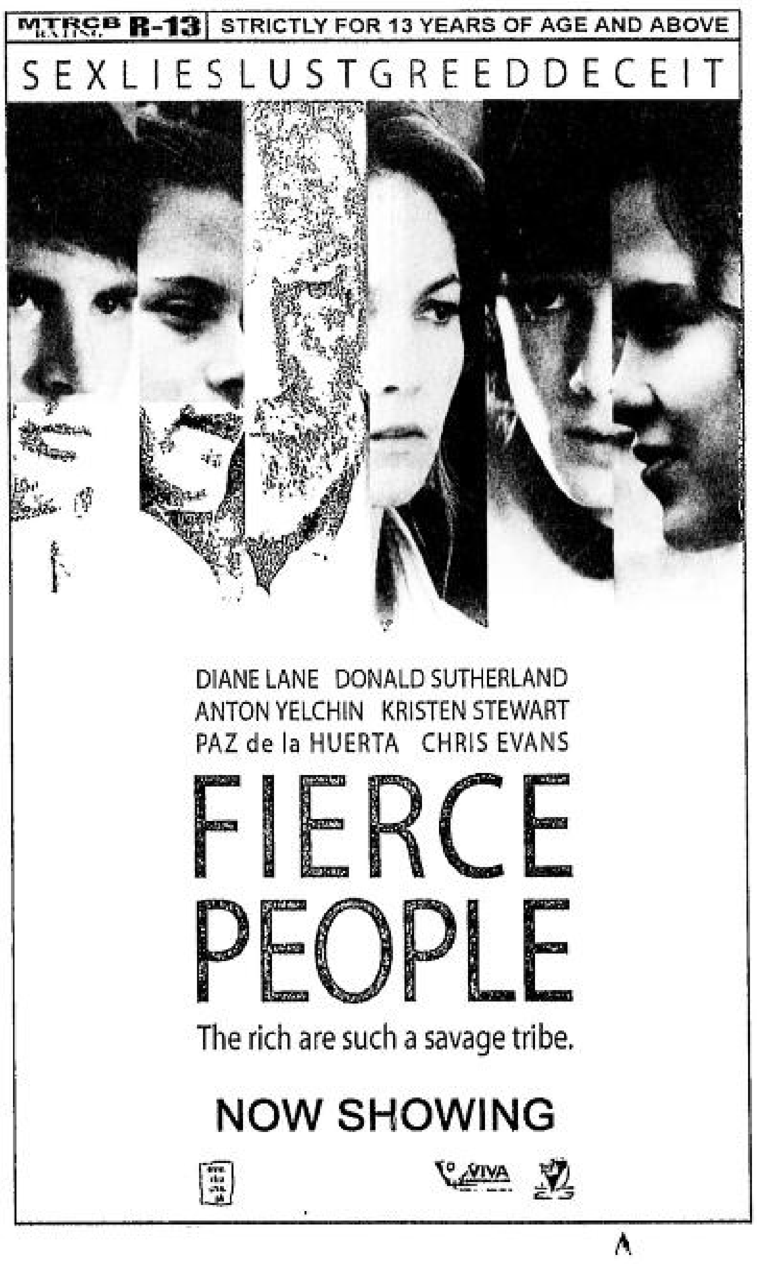
On the "RX Concert Series" this month, performing live from the studios are Imago on Aug. 14, Cueshe on Aug. 21 and Pupil and Barbie Almalbis on Aug. 28.

### 'Mom At Sixteen'

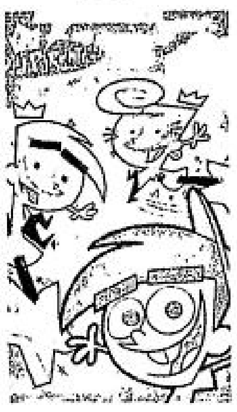
"Mom At Sixteen," a thought-provoking saga for parents and teens who have to deal with the harsh complications and miracles of unexpected pregnancy, premieres on the Hallmark Channel on Aug. 20, 9 p.m., encore on Aug. 21, 2 p.m.

Ace student and promising athlete Jacey Jeffries (Danielle Panabaker) discovers that pregnancy changes any woman who becomes a mother at a tender age.

Forced by her overbearing and recently divorced mother Terry (Mercedes Ruehl), the 16-year-old keeps her giving birth a secret and unwillingly agrees that her baby, Charlie, be adopted by Terry. The family then moves to a new town to start over.


MTRCB RATING R-13 | STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
SEXLIESLUSTGREEDDECEIT
DIANE LANE DONALD SUTHERLAND
ANTON YELCHIN KRISTEN STEWART
PAZ de la HUERTA CHRIS EVANS
FIERCE PEOPLE
The rich are such a savage tribe.
NOW SHOWING
VIVA

## KID FIT


FAIRLY ODD PARENTS

### New season

NICKELODEON HAS lined up new episodes for its shows this month.

"The Upside Down Show" with the Umbilical brothers airs weekends, 7:30 a.m., beginning Aug. 12.

"Fairly Odd Parents," about 10-year-old Timmy and his bossy babysitter, plays Aug. 25, 7 p.m.

"Hi-5" band's imaginary world airs Aug. 31 at 12 noon.